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BLERIOT CENTENARY PARTY TAKES FLIGHT

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The launch of the Dover 2009 Bleriot celebrations at the Duke of York's. Search 'Bleriot'

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PIONEERING: The aeroplane in which Frenchman Louis Bleriot flew from La Barraques near Calais to Dover in 1909

■ BY MARIJKE COX

ONE hundred years ago, Frenchman Louis Bleriot made a historic flight across the English Channel that changed the perception of air travel.

The epic journey saw him fly 22 miles from La Barraques near Calais to the cliffs of Dover, where he crash-landed after 37 minutes in the air.

His flight showed the potential of the aeroplane and changed people's beliefs that Britain was isolated from Europe.

To celebrate the centenary of his achievement, a weekend of celebrations on July 25-26, called Dover 2009, has been organised by the town and district councils, the Community of the Agglomeration of Calais, SEEDA, Cabe and events company Crestings Ltd.

Pilots

Key events include a historic re-enactment of the famous flight by Swedish pilot Mikael Carlson in a Bleriot XI aeroplane, accompanied by three other pilots also in Bleriot XI planes, and an air race from Abbeville in France to the Duke of York's Military School.

A fireworks spectacular is also being put on across the harbour by the organisers behind the Mayor of London's display on the Thames.

Bernard Butcher, chairman of Dover District Council, said the celebrations would be an amazing experience for the thousands of people expected to attend.

"It is an event that commemorates a momentous occasion in the past and by celebrating its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Children and staff at Aldington Primary School play their part in a world skipping record. Search 'skipping'



2 A barge is deliberately beached after it began sinking in the Channel. Search 'barge'



3 Gills boss Mark Stimson and defender Simon King talk about their chances in the League 2 play-off final. Search 'Wembley'

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032

EDITOR: Dave Mairs 01303 817022

WEBSITE: www.yourdover.co.uk

TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110

FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yourdover@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

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Defectors go to Standards about council

■ BY MARIJKE COX

TWO former Deal town councillors have lodged a complaint with the Local Government Standards Board over problems at the authority.

Tracy Wilton and Pat Cook, who defected to the Tories last month following the release of a damning audit report, have put in objections about the conduct of certain members.

The Standards Board provides an independent overview of local authorities' code of conduct and deals with complaints regarding behaviour of councillors.

Miss Wilton told this newspaper she made the decision after the authority failed to take action over the contents of the report, which highlighted town clerk Leslie Bulman and Labour councillors Marlene Burnham and Sue Delling for alleged misconduct.

All three have been mentioned in their letter of complaint to the board, which also includes Ben Bano.

According to Miss Wilton and Ms Cook, this is due to Cllr Bano's failure to discharge his duties as chairman of the governance committee.

Miss Wilton said: "Nothing has happened and the same people are still there. Something needs to be done to sort out the mess."

According to the former Labour councillor, members of the public are backing the move.

She said: "I've been canvassing people in Deal and they are supporting me all the way."

"The council needs to make a new start. People need to start benefiting

from this council, because at the moment they're not."

"There is no room for abuse of public money in Deal."

Ms Cook added: "Why are Cllrs Delling and Burnham still members of the Labour group? Why are they still councillors at all?"

Their complaint comes before an emergency meeting, being held tonight (Wednesday), which was demanded by five town councillors. But a number of concerns have been raised about the way the Mayor of Deal, Bill Gardner, has arranged it.

One Labour councillor, who asked not to be named, called it an "absolute farce" that Mr Bulman, Cllr Burnham and Cllr Delling are permitted to attend, despite their possible expulsions being considered.

"How can discussions go ahead when the very people we are talking about are sitting there?" asked the councillor.

Allowed

But Cllr Gardner said the pair were legally allowed to attend.

"We have taken legal advice and they are entitled to be there. Until judgement, there is no reason to expel them," he said.

Other complaints made by councillors include the way in which the agenda has been set, and that the meeting is being held in private.

Tory councillor Wayne Elliott said he expected the audit report to be the only item on the agenda. Instead it was last on a list of 10 items.

He said: "This meeting was called specifically to discuss the audit report and yet it has just been added in with other items."

But Cllr Gardner insists that many of the other items are simply a formality and that the report will be discussed within half-an-hour of the start of discussions.

yourdover
NEWS IN BRIEF



Wild foal is taken to vet with injured leg

A FOAL released on to chalk downland near Dover has been taken to vets with a nasty gash on its leg.

The six-week-old Konik horse was captured by a team from the Wildwood Trust who took it to Dover, where the wound was cleaned and stitched up.

Witnesses said the injury happened when a dog chased the foal, causing it to lose its footing and cut its leg on a piece of flint.

Wildwood has received a number of complaints about youngsters throwing stones at the horses and the trust, along with the White Cliffs Countryside Project, which looks after them, says it will prosecute anyone caught harming the animals.

The herd was released on to Hospital Downs, owned by Dover Town Council, in February with the aim of restoring the habitat there to its natural state.

The unique scheme allows conservation grazing systems to help bring back wildlife back to the area's important chalk downland.

Love Letters revealed by author at library

A BEST-SELLING author is coming to Dover Library to read from her new book Love Letters.

Katie Fforde, who was named in the Sunday Times top five best-selling authors, will be in Dover from 7pm on Tuesday, June 9.

Copies of her novels will be available to buy at the event. Tickets are £3, which includes a glass of wine.

For more information, phone Dover Library on 01304 204241, or visit www.kent.gov/libs.

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Racist insult 'shows need for exhibition'



PIONEER: Walter Tull was the first black officer in the British Army and the first black professional footballer

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A RACIST comment has been left in the visitor book of the new Walter Tull exhibition at Dover Library.

Visitors to the Crossing The White Line display, which celebrates the life of the first black Army officer and professional footballer, were shocked to find somebody had written a racist view about the Kent hero.

The offender had written: "The b*****d shouldn't have been here in the first place," signing it with a swastika.

The national exhibition, which was designed by the City of Westminster Archives with the help of the Dover War Memorial Project and other research groups, has been as far as Scotland to showcase the life of Walter Tull.

People in Dover have been celebrating its arrival last week as a number of Walter's family still live in the area.

Maggie Stephenson-Knight, founder and chief researcher of the Dover War Memorial Project, said the war hero was a pioneer to the challenges of prejudice.

She said: "I think that this comment demonstrates why such an exhibition is important.

"It does bring out a spectrum of opinion, which we welcome, most certainly."

"However, I would ask that if people do write their opinions they would remember that others will be reading them, so that opinion should be couched in respectful terms."

Walter, who was the grandson of a slave from Barbados, was a professional footballer in the early part of the 20th century and played for Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton.

He was the first black man ever to be signed as a professional.

As a result of the racist element in his life, the Kick the Racism out of Football campaign is being linked to the exhibition.

He was also the first black man to be commissioned by the British Army and was recommended for officer training, despite not being eligible for admission to the rank.

He became so respected by his men that when he was killed in action they attempted to recover his body from No Man's Land.

Welcome

Mrs Stephenson-Knight went on to explain how Walter's parents were welcomed into the Dover and Folkestone communities years ago.

"His family participated in community life. Walter's half-sister Miriam sang for more than 14 years in the church choir at River, and his sister Elsie was awarded the BEM for services to local hospitals," she said.

"William was a war casualty, serving in the British forces in the Great War. He now lies in a grave cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission."

The comment has been removed by library staff following complaints.

The exhibition, which was funded by the Professional Footballers Association and Heritage Lottery Fund, is running until Monday, June 29 – except Monday, May 25 – at Dover Library.

Picture RNLI St Mary's



Fisherman's epic trip to help RNLI

A FISHING fan is setting off on the journey of a lifetime to raise money for the RNLI.

Nick Power, 29, from Sutton, is holding a series of sea-fishing tournaments on his south coast route and stopping at 44 lifeboat stations, including Dover, along the way.

He has already set off from Scilly and hopes to be in Dover on Friday, May 29, where one of the sponsored fishing competitions will be held.

He said: "I am a huge supporter of the RNLI and because they are a charity which relies on people making donations I wanted to contribute.

"I know a few anglers who have been rescued by the RNLI, so I am aware of the fantastic work the volunteer crews do to help others."

"One day it could be me, so this is my way of saying thanks for everything they do – I can't think of a more admirable charity."

Anyone wanting to sign up for one of Nick's sponsored sea-angling matches, or for details about sponsoring him, can visit www.justgiving.com/nickpowerrnli.

What a party we will have

FROM FRONT PAGE

centenary we are marking out the achievement of Louis Bleriot to future generations and keeping the story of his triumph alive," he said.

The seafront will be transformed with British, Anglo-French and Anglo-Italian themed events and a programme of musical performances, including one from the Royal Air Force Halton Area Band.

A series of static and air displays of historic and vintage aeroplanes will be on show at Duke of York's school and the Red Arrows will perform a flypast.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy, Chief of the Air Staff, said: "The RAF is delighted to be able to support this event, which marks a milestone in aviation history."

Dover District Council leader Paul Watkins said: "We are confident this will be a world-class event putting Dover in the spotlight for the right reasons.

"It will show people that Dover is worth investing in," he said.

The event, which has taken 18 months to plan, is being sponsored by a number of companies including the Daily Mail and Shell Aviation, which fuelled the original Bleriot plan in 1909.

For more information about Dover 2009 Bleriot celebrations, visit www.Dover2009.com.

Historian Starkey launches film to promote the Ports

HISTORIAN David Starkey has visited Dover Castle to launch an educational DVD promoting the Cinque Ports.

He joined the crew of the HMS Severn to oversee its arrival in Dover before meeting the Lord Warden of Kent and mayors from across the county and East Sussex to celebrate the release of the DVD.

In the 45-minute film, Dr Starkey tells of the rivalries and bloodshed of the Cinque Ports, which stretch from Margate to Hastings, including Deal, Sandwich and Dover.

At the launch on Friday, he spoke of his hopes for history within the education system and joked with the character of Henry VIII, who attended the event with Anne Boleyn.

Dr Starkey said: "Hundreds of years ago the Cinque Ports was a supreme example of self-government – with your own parliaments and your own administration, with your own systems of law and justice.

"I think it's a route that we're

going to go down again, and the sooner the better. We must remember that Kent is not a county, it's a kingdom."

The DVD is part of a joint tourism campaign between Visit Kent, English Heritage, the Confederation of the Cinque Ports, 1066 Country Marketing and Kent County Council.

Visit Kent chairman Amanda Cottrell said it was a great privilege to have launched the campaign.

She said: "This is about our local history and everyone knows it's such a brilliant story."

The DVD will be distributed to tourism centres and schools.

The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Admiral the Lord Boyce, said he hoped the initiative would raise the profile of the area.

"I hope this encourages visitors to come along and discover the unique charms for themselves."

For further information, you can go to www.visitcinqueports.co.uk.



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Call to open up your home to French artist

A FRENCH artist will be working on a new project by Dover Arts Development.

Pierre-Yves Brest, from art group Espace 36 in Saint Omer, is taking part in the Reside/Resider scheme which looks at location, residence, migration and what it means to be European.

M. Brest is looking for people to take part in his work, which involves portraiture in different locations.

Dover Arts Development is seeking people who are willing to "open up" their homes, flat, office or workspace as part of the project.

An English artist from the South East will also be working on the theme of Reside.

- If you would like to get involved, email DAD at info@dadonline.eu.

Coastguard feared for dinghy teenagers' lives

VOLUNTEERS from Dover Lifeboat helped three teenagers in a dinghy during gale-force winds.

The crew was called out after calls from members of the public about the stricken group, who got into trouble in rough seas.

Coastguard tug Anglian Monarch was launched and the Folkestone Coastguard Rescue Team went to the scene by road.

The teenagers made it to shore before the lifeboat arrived and they were met by the coastguard team.

Coxswain Stuart Richardson said: "Small inflatable dinghies are dangerous when used in strong winds, particularly when the wind is offshore."

"Considering the conditions when we arrived on scene, these people were incredibly lucky – we could have so easily been pulling bodies from the sea."

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Search 'Goliath'

MP slams Tory candidate over expenses 'smearing campaign'

■ BY MARIJKE COX

they've been in the public domain ever since.

"He also knows that the Parliamentary authorities will be publishing the itemised version of the expenses for all MPs in July.

"But it serves his own political purpose to press me to self-publish the raw version immediately, implying that by not doing so I am hiding something."

Mr Prosser explained that every MP received a letter from the Clerk of the House stating that publication of expenses in their current format could leave them individually liable for prosecution under the Data Protection Act.

He added: "This might be the reason former Tory party leader and MP for the neighbouring constituency, Michael Howard, and nearly all his Conservative colleagues, have held back on publication.

"We don't see Mr Elphicke make any mention of this, nor does he tell them to publish their data and smear their good name."

But the Tory hopeful for Dover and Deal said he had been calling for MPs' expenses to be published for more than a year and the recent scandal only highlighted his campaign.

"MPs should publish everything and be frank with the electorate," he said.

"A year ago, Mr Prosser promised to publish his expenses in full. He has not done so.

"He must start to show some leadership."

Many in Westminster, including Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg, are now calling for the Speaker Michael Martin to go after he defended the current system.

But others, including Mr Prosser, are supporting Mr Martin, claiming he is being used as a scapegoat for the problems.

Mr Elphicke said: "Mr Prosser is supporting the Speaker, he voted for the John Lewis list, he voted against the expenses being audited and he won't publish now.

"Everything about him, everything he does, supports this discredited establishment.

"I'm ready to come in and clean up politics – there would be no cover-up on my watch."



FERRY WORKER IN BIG LEAP TO HELP HEROES

A SeaFrance employee has made a tandem parachute jump to raise money for Help The Heroes.

Barry Bickley fell at speeds of 180mph to raise £672 for the charity which helps people injured while serving in the armed forces.

Just before the jump, Barry heard that a friend had been badly injured by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

He said: "It gave me an even bigger incentive, to think that my parachute jump was going to raise money to help the recovery process for people like him.

"The jump was the equivalent of falling down a 20-storey building in a second.

"It was mind-blowing, really, although I didn't really notice the speed until I saw the ground getting nearer.

"It was quite a change from the day job."

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SCARRED FOR LIFE: William Wilson (left) stabbed Michael Brankley with a Stanley knife during his vicious attack

Slash attack victim saved by his friends

THE victim of a crazed stabbing attack has spoken of his ordeal at the hands of a man with a fixation for knives.

Michael Brankley narrowly escaped death in July last year when William Wilson, 28, stabbed him 20 times in his face and body.

It was only thanks to the quick thinking of his friends outside Star Taxis in Dover that Mr Brankley is alive today.

Wilson was convicted at Maidstone Crown Court on Thursday last week of attempting to murder Mr Brankley.

He was sent to jail for an indeterminate period by Judge Jeremy Carey and will be in prison for at least six-and-a-half years.

Wilson was drinking with a group of people he had met for the first time in Dover on the night of Wednesday, July 30, last year.

The group left the public house Funky Monkey and walked towards London Road, where they began to separate.

Wilson and Mr Brankley remained waiting for a taxi, along with two other friends.

It was as they waited at about 2am on the Thursday morning that an argument broke out between Wilson and Mr Brankley.

Stanley knife

Wilson had latched on to a girl outside the taxi office who resisted his attentions and Mr Brankley intervened.

Two of the victim's friends got into a taxi and as they looked back to see if Mr Brankley was following to get into the taxi, they saw the two men in a scuffle.

Punches were thrown, but Wilson was armed with a Stanley knife hidden in his sock.

He used it to stab Mr Brankley in the stomach, thigh and arm and had a six-and-a-half-inch-wide slash across his face which almost blinded him in the left eye.

The struggle took seconds and afterwards Wilson ran off towards the town centre as the two friends ran to help their friend.

As they reached him they realised the extent of his injuries and, together with Port of Dover police officers who were in the area at the time, helped stem the blood flow before Mr Brankley was taken to William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

The next day Wilson got a friend to smuggle him out of town.

Kent Police made strenuous efforts to trace

■ BY IAN READ

Wilson, visiting Scotland and other parts of England in an effort to bring him to justice.

Information from an anonymous source as to Wilson's whereabouts was received three months later and he was subsequently arrested.

Throughout the investigation, officers had gathered extensive CCTV footage to establish a picture of what happened prior to the attack.

No weapon was recovered, although when arrested Wilson was in possession of a Stanley knife.

Wilson had sunk at least 15 pints of Stella Artois during the evening of the attack.

He was in Dover to look for scaffolding work – but he hid a dark secret.

In June 2002, he had been found not guilty of the murder of former policeman Gordon Gibson, who was stabbed 21 times in a park near Glasgow.

Wilson was later convicted of possessing a vast array of swords and knives and was known in his home city for his vicious temper.

For the three months after the attack on Mr Brankley, he was holed up in a girlfriend's flat in St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex – 100 yards from the local police station.

Mr Brankley, now 25, said: "I can't turn back the clock, but in many respects I feel extremely lucky."

"I could have lost the sight in my left eye if it wasn't for the quick thinking of my friends and the excellent medical treatment I received."

"I could also have lost my life."

"I have great family support and a beautiful daughter, and I hope from this point that my life can continue to get back on track."

"I don't go out much. If I go out for a drink I go to my local. I'm going to put this behind me and stay out of trouble."

"I was horrified to find out what he had done previously, so I was delighted with the result."

"All I want to do is get on with my life."

As a result of the attack, Mr Brankley faces more operations, but Judge Jeremy Carey said he had admiration for his fortitude during his evidence in the witness box.

Sentencing Wilson, Judge Carey said he would stay in prison until the parole board was satisfied that he was not a danger to the public.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Benefits advice for elderly

PENSIONERS are being advised on how to gain access to services through a new scheme set up by Dover District Council.

The scheme has been created in partnership with The Pension Service to ensure residents aged 60 or over get all the benefits to which they are entitled.

It has led to £671,320 extra benefits being awarded over the past ten months.

Pensioners are being offered the chance to ask for a home visit where a specialist visiting officer will give advice about claiming pension credits, housing benefit, council tax benefit and attendance allowance.

Margaret Smith, from Deal, is one of the residents to have benefited from the scheme.

She said: "This service has been a wonderful help to me and has improved my life."

A spokesman from the Department for Work and Pensions, said: "People's circumstances change and even those who have not been eligible for help in the past may be now."

- For more information, phone the health and well-being team at Dover District Council on 01304 872338.

Karate kids do it for kicks

STUDENTS from the Dover Kyokushinkai Karate Club have celebrated receiving their belts after a successful month in the new premises.

Shihan Sean Wright, chief instructor, said the students' progress has been helped by increasing the size of the club's gym.

He said: "Having our own building has helped. We are able to leave the hall set up for our members to use and have over the last year put in new facilities for them including a new reception, toilet and wash areas."

- For more information about the club visit www.doverkyokushinkaikarateclub.com.

Senior sailor's close call

A PENSIONER has been rescued by the crew of the Dover lifeboat after getting into difficulties near St Margaret's Bay.

The 71-year-old called Dover Coastguard just before 1pm on Sunday after he encountered adverse weather while sailing from Calais to Ramsgate in his yacht.

The RNLI crew launched the lifeboat and reached the vessel off St Margaret's Bay before escorting it back to Dover.

Once inside the harbour, a member of the crew helped the exhausted yacht owner enter the marina and moor up.

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WHAT'S ON AT THE WINTER GARDENS

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| JUNE 2009 Wednesday 3rd Keeping Up With The Joans | Saturday 4th Anything For Love | Saturday 25th In Dreams featuring music from Roy Orbison |
| Sunday 7th Central Band of The Royal British Legion | Thursday 9th - Saturday 11th Children's Showtime 2009 | Friday 31st The Real Thing |
| Sunday 14th Ali Campbell in Concert | Sunday 12th DAPA Graduation Show | AUGUST 2009 |
| Saturday 14th - Sunday 15th OLIVER - Open Auditions | Thursday 16th - SOLD OUT The Kooks in Concert | Saturday 8th Joe Pasquale |
| Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st Margate's Big Event | Friday 17th Three Degrees plus support | 12th Aug - 11th Sept "Razzmatazz" Girling Productions Summer Show |
| Friday 3rd The TAKE THAT Experience | Saturday 18th 'Dancing Days' | Saturday 15th Michael McIntyre |
| | Friday 24th-Sunday 26th Margate Big Sky Jazz Festival | SEPTEMBER 2009 |
| | | Tuesday 1st Paul Potts in Concert |

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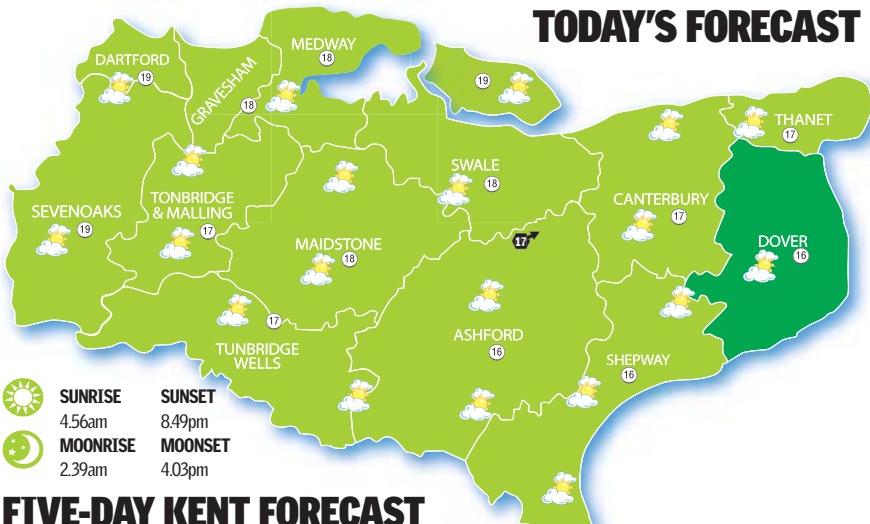
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TODAY'S FORECAST

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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|---------|------|
| Chatham | Saturday | 12:38pm | 5.8m |
| | Sunday | 1:22pm | 6.0m |
| Dover | Saturday | 10:38am | 6.3m |
| | Sunday | 11:23am | 6.5m |
| Dungeness | Saturday | 10:57am | 7.2m |
| | Sunday | 11:39am | 7.5m |
| Ramsgate | Saturday | 11:08am | 4.8m |
| | Sunday | 11:53am | 4.9m |
| Sheerness | Saturday | 12:27pm | 5.6m |
| | Sunday | 1:12pm | 5.7m |
| Whitstable | Saturday | 12:27pm | 5.0m |
| | Sunday | 1:13pm | 5.1m |

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

| | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Ashford | 16°C | 19°C | 19°C | 16°C | 18°C | Gravesend | 17°C | 19°C | 19°C | 17°C | 19°C |
| Canterbury | 16°C | 18°C | 18°C | 16°C | 18°C | Maidstone | 16°C | 18°C | 19°C | 17°C | 18°C |
| Chatham | 16°C | 18°C | 17°C | 15°C | 16°C | Ramsgate | 16°C | 18°C | 18°C | 16°C | 18°C |
| Dartford | 17°C | 19°C | 19°C | 17°C | 19°C | Rochester | 16°C | 18°C | 17°C | 15°C | 16°C |
| Dover | 15°C | 16°C | 16°C | 15°C | 16°C | Sevenoaks | 15°C | 17°C | 17°C | 16°C | 16°C |
| Faversham | 16°C | 18°C | 17°C | 15°C | 16°C | Sittingbourne | 16°C | 18°C | 17°C | 15°C | 16°C |
| Folkestone | 15°C | 16°C | 16°C | 15°C | 16°C | Tonbridge | 15°C | 18°C | 19°C | 17°C | 18°C |
| Gillingham | 16°C | 18°C | 17°C | 15°C | 16°C | Tun Wells | 15°C | 18°C | 19°C | 17°C | 18°C |



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Amsterdam | 16°C | Madrid | 23°C |
| Athens | 27°C | New York | 13°C |
| Barcelona | 20°C | Paris | 17°C |
| Beijing | 34°C | Rome | 24°C |
| Bombay | 33°C | Sydney | 20°C |
| Cape Town | 17°C | Tenerife | 23°C |
| Cardiff | 12°C | Tokyo | 27°C |
| Gibraltar | 23°C | Vancouver | 21°C |
| Hong Kong | 33°C | Warsaw | 21°C |
| Las Palmas | 23°C | Wellington | 12°C |



PRESENTATION: Chief Constable Michael Fuller with PC Paul Howe (above) and PC Christine Arundell (below)

PCs honoured for halting knife-wielding attacker

TWO police officers who tackled a knife-wielding man in Dover have been commended for their bravery.

PC Paul Howe and PC Christine Arundell were honoured by Chief Constable Michael Fuller at a ceremony at the Kent Police headquarters in Maidstone.

The pair were thanked for their work in dealing with a disturbance in Folkestone Road in February 2008 where a large, powerfully-built man came out of a house holding a knife.

After seeing the officers he went back inside, where screams could be heard.

PC Howe and PC Arundell forced down the door and a violent struggle took place between them and the offender.

Despite being injured, they managed to arrest the man and an accomplice who were sentenced to three years in prison.



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QUESTION & ANSWER

DUNCAN GALLOWAY



Q&A

The lead singer of the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, who entertained so hugely at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall, spoke to James Alexandre about being on tour, delivering sushi and bowling out an England cricketer

Q Tell us a little about yourself

A I am the lead singer and band leader of the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

Q How did you first become involved in the Pasadena Roof Orchestra?

A I first heard of the orchestra in the 1980s and had always admired the music of the dance-band era. I first came across it on Dennis Potter's TV series *Pennies From Heaven*.

Q What is it like to be in a modern swing and dance orchestra?

A I suspect the rigours of being on the road on tour in the 1920s and 30s is not much different from today. Instead of a tour bus, we tend to fly quite a lot these days, which is an experience I don't enjoy.

The reward for all that time spent in queues for security, queues for coffee, queues for boarding, is seeing so many different places. I would hate, however, to have a milometer fitted on me – I fear it would be over the million mark by now.

Q What would you say has been your most memorable or exciting experience so far?

A One of my most memorable experiences is sailing into Sydney harbour on the P&O

cruise-liner Oriana's maiden world voyage. It is a naturally beautiful bay, and the opera house is a modern wonder of the world.

Working with the Pasadena Roof Orchestra has become almost a life passion for me. In my time with the band I have met some extraordinary musicians and some extraordinary characters.

Music, especially jazz music, is a lot about listening to what the others are doing around you. It is probably as important, if not more so, than what you do yourself.

During my time with the band, I have had the benefit of listening to some great players. In this respect I have been very privileged.

Q How did you become involved in showbusiness?

A I trained as an actor at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. I have had some great experiences in the thespian world, including visiting the Taj Mahal and being a founder member of the Stadium Theatre Company when P&O Cruises put a repertory company to sea. My first world cruise was on a lovely ship, SS Canberra.

I was always keen on singing and play saxophone and clarinet myself, so the progression from actor to musician was quite logical. I have performed in a few musicals, including Guys and Dolls, and Les Misérables. I sometimes get the urge to do a serious dramatic role again, but it soon passes!

Q Have you been to Folkestone before and what do you know of the area?

A The Pasadena Roof Orchestra have played at Folkestone before, including most recently in March. More information about the orchestra can be found at the website www.pasadena.co.uk. It has a brief history of the band, a picture gallery, tour dates and other essential information.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time when you're not working?

A When I am not queuing up at an airport I am a keen golfer and happy attempting to lower my handicap at my club near Cambridge. I also spend a fair bit of time helping my wife's business which we jointly own, called The Cambridge Sushi Company. We supply really good-quality sushi to the colleges, canteens and offices in and around the city. The proof of this is the fact that I still enjoy eating it after sometimes seeing so much of it. You can find out more at www.cambridge-sushi.com.

Q Tell us something that people don't tend to know about you

A I used to play cricket to a fairly good level. I was once a wicketkeeper/batsman and my claim to fame was getting Mark Ramprakash out twice in one delivery. I stumped him down the leg side and he also got an edge. I asked the umpire at the bowler's end if he heard it and he said he didn't, but I know the truth!



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A conservation centre has some of the rarest animals in the world. Search 'rare'.



Giant wind farm off the Kent coast is given green light. Search 'Array'.



Launching celebrations to mark first Channel flight. Search 'Bleriot'.



Why a sinking barge was run aground in the Channel. Search 'barge'.



School takes part in a world skipping record attempt. Search 'skipping'.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at... yourkenttv.co.uk

Fired Mona admits gay was wrong for Margate

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

FORMER beauty queen Mona Lewis says she should have trusted her knowledge of Kent to avoid being booted off *The Apprentice*.

The 28-year-old from Sittingbourne was the latest candidate to be told "You're fired" by Sir Alan Sugar on the popular BBC One show



NOT IMPRESSED: Sir Alan Sugar

last Wednesday night, after her team failed in its attempts to rebrand Margate.

Mona said she felt her team made the wrong decision in attempting to promote the gritty seaside town as a haven for gay people, and she

wishes she had fought harder against the idea: "Being a resident of Kent and knowing more about it than the others, I thought it would be better to target the family market because Margate has a lot of family heritage, it's receiving a lot of investment and there are major things going on."

"I wish I had fought harder against the gay idea because I thought it limited the market. You can be gay and still be part of a family."

Despite Mona's opposition to her team's idea, Sir Alan revealed on the show how the branding experts and residents who acted as judges for the task were supportive of it.

What they were less impressed with was the shoddily-produced leaflet and cluttered series of posters that accompanied the campaign.

Mona was fired from the show after being brought back into the boardroom with project manager Debra Barr and former commercial manager James McQuillan.

She said: "I was fired because Sir Alan felt I wasn't fully backing up the team and also because he could not see where he could fit me into his operation."

"I think the time was right for me to leave

because I really missed my little boy and eight weeks was a long time to be away from him, so I was happy in that respect."

Mona, who was born in Karachi, Pakistan, and is a former financial manager, now works for Business Link to help Kent firms capitalise on the 2012 Olympics.

She said that "only time will tell" if her time on *The Apprentice* would help or hinder her job prospects but that she was pleased with the way she came across on the show.

Experience

Mona said: "It was definitely an experience to be on *The Apprentice* and it was quite an honour to be selected, especially as I have only lived in the country for four years."

"I never claimed to be good at creating or designing things, but I'm so pleased I was able to show off my selling and negotiating skills and I think I acted with dignity and professionalism at all times."

National accounts manager Lorraine Tighe is now Kent's only representative left.

The next episode of *The Apprentice* can be seen at 9pm tonight on BBC One.



GAY RESORT? Apprentice Mona (inset) admits she should have promoted Margate to families

Dover girl is Capt Kirk's midwife

IT'S a long way from Dover to the Starship Enterprise – but one actress is enjoying the limelight after landing a role in the new Star Trek film.

Sonita Henry boldly went where no one has gone before in the movie – and secured a place in Trekkie folklore in the role of the alien doctor responsible for delivering baby James T Kirk.



TREKKIE: actress Sonita Henry

Ms Henry grew up in Dover, with a British dad and Guyanese mum, and after attending Dover Girls Grammar, took a media studies course at South Kent College.

The 32-year-old swapped Kent for California in her 20s and has appeared in TV adverts in the US and had parts in films including *The Fifth Element*, Woody Allen flick *Celebrity* and TV series *Without a Trace*.

But the Star Trek movie – set before the TV series which spawned a host of big-screen outings for the original crew and a subsequent slew of spin-off series – is her highest-profile role to date.

Ms Henry told a US newspaper: "As an actor, you're like 'Great! Another job' and then it slowly begins to sink in that this isn't just another job... this is Star Trek."

Kent's unfit cops

KENT'S rookie cops are the unfittest in Britain, according to Home Office figures just released.

Almost 17 per cent of probationers were sent packing after receiving sub-standard results for tests of stamina and upper-body strength.

Only Avon and Somerset cops posted similar results, followed by a failure rate of 10 per cent in Norfolk.

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BREAK TIME
Cycling for Martha

THE head-teacher of Northbourne Park School in Deal is raising funds for Martha Trust by being carbon-free.

Patrick Papougnat ditched his car last September and now uses his bike to cycle to work, with sponsorship going to the charity.

He said: "My target is to cover the distance from the Atlantic to the Ural Mountains – 5,500km – by July 4."

Serita Boxall, fund-raiser for Martha Trust, said: "He is doing extremely well."

To sponsor Mr Papougnat, visit www.justgiving.com/patrickpapougnat.

Sweet spell of success

PUPILS from Sir Roger Manwood's School in Sandwich have won their heat in The Times Spelling Bee.

Year seven students Dominic Wheeler, Daniel Nicholson and Brian Caffero, with reserve member Jenna Klaric, beat six teams from other schools in the area.

The team will now go forward to The Times Spelling Bee semi-finals in May.

The ten winners will then travel to London to compete in the grand final at the Odeon in Leicester Square.

Finalist Gabby cooks up a culinary treat for judges

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A STUDENT from Castle Community College in Deal has finished runner-up in a countywide cooking competition.

Gabby Newcombe battled it out at Thanet Catering College on Wednesday night last week alongside six other 11- to 15-year-olds for the chance of winning a day in the kitchen at The Marquis at Alkham with a top chef.

The event, organised by KCC and the NHS, was open to all secondary schools in Kent to encourage young people to cook healthy, tasty meals. Cameron Kobylanski from Dane Court Grammar School came first, but Gabby walked away joint second.

Roger Philips, head of the judging panel, said: "Everyone is a winner – the food was first-class. There was just one-and-a-half marks between the winner and runners-up – it was a tough decision for the judges to make."

"We all had fun in the kitchen and it proved how enjoyable and rewarding cooking can be."

The finalists had two hours to produce their menus, with the help of students from Thanet College, in front of judges Mr Philips, cordon bleu chef Jaci Goodman and Ben Walton.

Jaci Goodman runs a cookery school in the United States and has been involved in judging cookery competitions for organisations including Betty Crocker and Uncle Ben's.

Mr Walton is a trained chef and has worked at Michelin-star

restaurants. He is the current manager of fine-dining restaurant The Marquis.

Marissa White, head of extended services at Kent County Council, said: "I really enjoyed going into the kitchen and watching the students preparing and cooking their dishes."

"It was a really calm atmosphere and everyone was enjoying the experience. It was a successful event and we look forward to working more closely with Thanet College in the future."

All the finalists' recipes will feature in the Kent Cooks cookery book and each participant will have the chance to spend a day training at Thanet College.

The winner has been invited to spend a day in the kitchen of The Marquis and also walked away with a Kent Cooks award.



MAKE A MEAL OF IT: Gabby Newcombe with one of her prize-winning dishes

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If the forecasters can't get it right, at least give the public the facts to judge the outlook for themselves



A severe weather warning

"ANYONE else, any other profession, if they were as incompetent, they'd be fired."

A frequent tirade, and applied almost invariably to those who forecast our weather.

I heard it just last week from the warden of one of Kent's top nature reserves, a man more familiar than most with the climate of these islands.

"They've forecast rain for every day this week and what did we get? Half-an-hour last night.

"The forecasts aren't worth bothering with any more. They should just give us the charts and let us make up our own minds," he said.

But of course 'they' don't. 'They' (the BBC, in this instance) have for the most part taken them away. We are, it appears, too stupid to be granted access to something as bewildering as a meteorological chart.

In truth, weather maps are no great puzzle, but in Dumb Britain it's best we're kept away from anything remotely challenging.

In a way there's a logic to it. If the BBC's own forecasters can't interpret a weather map, why should the layman?

But as a general policy it is strangely flawed. At the end of the forecast, those of us geeky enough to want more more details are urged to

visit the corresponding BBC weather website. And here something very odd has happened. The website has had a makeover. But, in contrast to the TV forecasts, there hasn't been a dumbing-down. Rather, the website has been rendered practically unusable.

It's near-impossible to find anything you want, links seem to work on some computers but not others, while a bid to navigate the site is likely to leave you stranded somewhere in cyberspace.

Exasperated, and assuming you're able to return to Earth, you wind up back at the telly, where, if nothing else, the lovely Nazaneen Ghaffar (so preferable to the comically overhyped Kaddy) makes the whole charade at least bearable.

Sadly, however, even she seems to have been got at behind the scenes.

After a promising start, in which she delivered our weather in a relatively sober, considered manner, her style has changed, presumably under orders.

You can imagine the pep talk.

"Now, Nazaneen, never forget you're talking to morons. All they want to know is whether it's a day in the garden or on the sunbed.

"I want you to leap about the studio like some kind of court jester. Put on an inane grin if the sun's coming out and pout tragically if it's not.

"I'm thinking of bringing in a pantomime audience to boo and hiss when it rains – although that might not be for a while yet."

But a pantomime romp this is not. It's serious stuff and we can but conjecture how many lives have been endangered as a result of inept weather-forecasting.

"OK, darling, it's all set fair for a trip in the yacht. I thought I might take the pickles [children] for their first day on the ocean wave."

"Super, Tarquin, have a wonderful day."

At which point Tarquin and pickles disappear over the horizon blithely unaware of the Force 10 nightmare hurtling their way. A distressing way to go, in anyone's language.

Or maybe not. Michael Fish, in a BBC news item in which he denies any role in the infamous mis-forecasting of the 1987 hurricane-strength storm and lumps the blame on Bill Giles, finds a silver lining to that particularly hefty cloud.

"Craftily, I am trying to promote a book on the subject [extreme weather]..." he tells us.

Oh, how very crafty, how very cheeky, what altogether spiffing fun.

Eighteen people died in that storm. How many of them might still be with us if they'd been given the correct facts?

Perhaps we shouldn't ask the question. After all, what do we know?

GET IN TOUCH... LET US KNOW...

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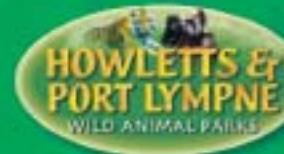
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WOMEN seeking men

SWEET DEBS

Hopeful, happy, shy girl, 22, loves all the normal stuff about life, searching for a mature guy, 24-39, for loving friendship and happiness. Box 880373

SINGLE DADS WELCOME

Lovely single mum, 23, cuddly and curvy, 5ft6, blonde and blue-eyed, like a drink, animals, reading, cinema, looking for honest, trustworthy and caring male. Box 451249

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue eyed blonde, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, my time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

ME AND YOU

Medium build girl, 28, brown hair, green eyes, seeking honest guy who looks after number one, for lasting relationship. Box 451334

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, fits, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

SEEKING MR DARCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

HAPPY SHOPPER!

Easygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTM loving, caring white male, 35-47, for long-term, loving relationship. No time-wasters. Box 444214

STACEY LOOKING FOR HER GAVIN

Slim, blue-eyed beauty, 31, Tunbridge Wells, loving, caring, very genuine. Wanting someone to cuddle up with at night and have lots of laughs with. Box 881494

CUFFY FEMALE

32, 5ft3, brown hair, curly figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh and WLTM nice, kind gent. Box 439402

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

FIT FOR FUN

Petite, dark-haired girl, 33, 5ft, fit, loves badminton, cinema and more, searching for an active man, with heart and soul. Box 881047

_SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447955

LIVING IT

Fair-haired female, 35, 5ft, loves the gym, pubs, nights out and fine company, searching for fun blonde, for life, love and laughter. Box 881011

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 446993

LOOKING FOR A LOVING CHAP

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have two kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985

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NOW OR NEVER

Hi there, I'm a 42yr old male, 5ft11, medium build, dark hair. I like sports, theatre, music, films. Looking for like-minded lady. Box 451825

LET ME MAKE YOU DINNER

Honest guy, 53, WLTM nice woman,

any age. I like to cuddle and am hoping to find friendship and affection. I like sport and socialising. Box 451823

EASINGOING

Male, 49, 5'6", small/med build, non-smoker, likes motorbikes, dancing, eating in and out, cinema, walking, animals, seeks female, non-smoker, for lasting love. Box 811955

STEP BY STEP

Good guy, with a dry sense of humour. I like walks, cinema, meals out. I'm 58, with grey hair, 6ft2. Box 451839

NICE TO MEET YOU

Tall, slim, non-smoking male, Kent area. I'm 58 and enjoy playing the piano, walking, eating out. WLTM nice, non-smoking lady with similar interests. Box 447694

GETTING ON!

Good guy, Canterbury, 60yrs old. Looking for friendship, maybe more. I have a GSOH and would like to find the same in a woman. Box 451841

PLANT THE SEEDS

In loving, sort of, 62, grey hair/blue eyes, 5ft10, love life, holidays, photography, countryside, gardening, WLTM similar lady, 50-62ish, slim/medium build. Box 451844

AS NICE AS PIE

Active male, 64, young-at-heart, fair fit, keeps healthy, enjoys music, cinema, home life & company. WLTM car-free female counterpart. Box 451947

SUNSHINE THROUGH MY WINDOW

Slim fit, youthful 64y old gent. I enjoy holiday, cinema, music, the sunshine! I have a GSOH and WLTM attractive lady. Box 451802

SEE HOW IT GOES

Loyal male, 64, 5ft10 and medium build, enjoys walks, badminton, travel, gardening and theatre, seeking female with zest for life and is honest. Box 451912

Men seeking women

THE LOVE THING

Professional male, 45, home/car, likes cinema, weekends away, coast, BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 426202

NOTHING TO LOSE

Laid back, attractive single dad, 35, 5ft9, brown eyes, medium build, looking for someone similar to enjoy fun, socialising and hopefully love.. Box 451286

CATCH OF THE DAY

Divorced male, 47, interests: fishing, cinema, sport, long walks, countryside, eating out/romantic dinners. I'm looking for someone special, to cuddle up with. Box 451878

THE LOOK OF LOVE

Outgoing and friendly man, 47, blue eyes, fair hair, likes the countryside and spicy food, looking to meet a nice and friendly lady for love. Box 449306

GET ME OUTTA HERE!

Loyal, trustworthy, honest family man, 37, independent, stocky, 5'6", non-smoker, GSOH, thoughtful and aware of other people's feelings, with morals/standards. Aquarian. Seeking similar loving lady. Box 479755

EVERYTHING I DO

Lee, driver, 36y old, 6ft3, dark hair, blue eyes, pub, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading. WLTM a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

NOT ASKING FOR MUCH

Fun loving, bubbly, tall, 5ft6, nice eyes, brown hair, medium build, loves salsa dancing, new things, bowling, quiet nights in...looking for a companion and more! Box 449186

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair, blue eyes, reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing male for fun and friendship and more! Box 448403

POOTER GOING

Easygoing male, 46, 5'8", likes cinema, dancing, rock and roll music, seeks female, for warmth and affection. Box 447518

MAKE ME SMILE

Homely guy, down-to-earth, 48, 5ft7, brown hair and medium build, great cook and SOH, seeking similar lady to take out. Box 451503

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

Youthful dad, 46, 5'10", brown hair, medium build, into sports, likes pub, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, WLTM female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook Box 737529

TEXT REPLY:

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MENTAL BE? Trustworthy, honest guy, 55, romantic, medium build, loves cinema, meals, drinks and other things, looking for relationship and TMC in Margate... Box 451296

ADVENTURE & FUN GUARANTEED Fit, young male, 41, 6ft, blond, green eyes, good build, likes keeping fit, nights out, seeking man, 25-40, 6ft+, well-built. Box 447518

MENTAL BE? Good guy, looking for male, 35-50, I'm 40, green eyes, dark hair, average build. I enjoy pubs, music, cinema, dining in/out. Box 436613

A BRIGHTER FUTURE Solvent, professional 41 yr old male, enjoys eating out, films, keeping fit, WLTM younger male for fun, friendship, hopefully love. Box 444725

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your competition

WIN adventures on your computer with Wallace and Gromit



"BRILLIANT, lad!" Wallace and Gromit, beloved stars of Aardman Animations' award-winning films, are now appearing in a new series of stories you can play developed by interactive entertainment pioneers Telltale Games.

world of West Wallaby Street. We are offering 12 lucky winners a chance to win an entire series of the Wallace and Gromit Grand Adventures on the PC (priced at £25 each season) which each include four exciting episodes, once the winners have been picked we will send Gift Codes by email so winners can download the game.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Wallace & Gromit Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR. Closing date is May 31, 2009.

Question: Who are the Entertainment Pioneers behind the new Wallace and Gromit adventure games?

No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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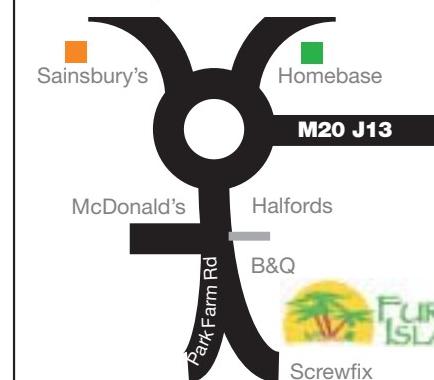
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your letters

TALK TIME

CHRIS PRECIOUS

The Dover town councillor (Dover Alliance) and chairman of The George Cross For Dover Campaign talks about the area



Who or what brought you to Dover?

Having been born in London and then moving around the country a bit, I found myself in Dover and was struck by the town's greatest asset: its people. This is not only the friendliest town I have ever been in, the people here have a strong sense of their history while wanting to see the town move forward. Not everyone agrees with the objectives, but everyone is looking forward.

What's your favourite thing about Dover?

The views you get while walking in the footsteps of such a proud history.

Can you explain what The George Cross For Dover campaign means to you?

The reasons for the campaign should be self-explanatory. Not only was the town vital to the war effort, central in planning from Dunkirk to D-Day, it stood firm amid the bombs and shells as the symbol of English spirit and the ideal of a free home to return to. As a campaign we want to see that dedication honoured, the civilians who fell commemorated and the glorious history widely known and celebrated.

What's the main issues you would like to tackle through your council position?

As a councillor I want to continue fighting for improvements to our roads and transport system while doing my best for the people who elected me. At the end of the day, they allowed me to represent them and that is what I consider my first priority.

YOUR LETTERS

Lifting confusion off my first letter

In reply to Jack Gill of the 1890 Stepped Leas Lift Carriage Renovation Project (last week's letters), I firstly point out that my views on part of the money collected so far are based on speaking to people while I, Eamonn Rooney and several others were collecting signatures to help save the whole lift site.

A fair number of people said they'd just put money into the collection bucket – usually unstaffed by anyone from the project itself – at the lower station entrance thinking they were doing so to support the continued running of the whole lift instead of just the step carriage appeal.

Even before this, though, I had on several occasions heard claims of this from local people, including from some not connected with the appeal or the lift in any way.

However, I wish to make it clear that I do not think the carriage appeal has deliberately tried to mislead people, it's just that it appears some have put money in without realising the distinction.

Further, not everyone reads the media articles, and the use of the step carriage picture next to articles about saving the whole lift may not have helped, especially recently.

Nor does everyone always take time, especially in a hurry, to read the 'small print' at the lift foyer.

It may be that people, especially during town-centre

collections, will have been fully aware that the money was only for the carriage, but it seems not everyone, as mentioned above, placed money at the unmanned collection point at the lift itself did so.

It would be impossible to separate the appeal money now anyway and I'm sure every penny will be used for the restoration of the carriage and its new siting.

It is just this point that needs to be clarified and made clearer for any future collections, especially at the lift entrance.

Ray Duff
Folkestone

Duff had carriage to speak truth

In reply to last week's letter from JA Gill, chairman of the 1890 Stepped Leas Lift Carriage Renovation Project, I wish to defend Ray Duff's letter of April 29, calling for clarification of what the public have been donating money to.

Some time ago I saw a group of people collecting outside Sainsbury's in the town centre for, what I believed, was the Leas lift.

When I donated, I thought my money was going towards the upkeep of the current, functioning lift.

I was rather annoyed to discover, a little while later, that this was not the case.

Had I realised the collection was for the restoration of another carriage, which I believe is never going to function as a working lift, I would not have donated my money.

I support several charities, including ActionAid and the

PDSA, which I would rather have given my money to.

Mrs C Stuart
Folkestone

You can't put price on MP honesty

Clearly the business with Deal Town Council and MPs' expenses is a complete disgrace. Our public life seems to have gone bad. Things must be cleaned up.

Labour town councillor Bryan Henderson's letter puzzled me. One week he works cross-party with us, calling for Labour councillors Sue Delling and Marlene Burnham, at the centre of the storm, to resign. Then he writes attacking the Conservatives.

In response I want to explain what we are doing.

On Deal Town Council, we have called for the sleaze report to be published. We have called for a clean-up.

We have given our support to the honourable Mill Hill councillors Tracy Wilton and Pat Cook, who resigned in disgust.

On MPs' expenses there has been fraud and abuse on an industrial scale.

There is a responsibility on all in public life to ensure the highest standards. To be open and transparent. To be tireless in rooting out abuse and wrongdoing.

A year ago, local MP Gwyn Prosser said he was making full disclosure of his expenses. He has still not done so. They will soon be published in full.

My view on public service is clear: to serve is an honour and a vocation, not a living and a

trough. If things are amiss, I will be as sharply critical of Mr Prosser as I have been of Conservative MPs caught troughing.

Some things transcend party loyalties – including the timeless principles of honesty, decency, honour and integrity.

Charlie Elphicke
Prospective Tory MP for Dover & Deal

MPs lose vote over expenses scandal

I am disgusted, appalled and feel utter despair at the scandal surrounding MPs' expenses.

The basic wage alone for a member of Parliament is three or four times that of the average wage in Britain and is perfectly adequate for anyone to live on comfortably without claiming excessive and immoral expenses.

It is right that people feel hurt. It is right that they feel angry and they can't be blamed for thinking that all politicians are the same and that there are none worth voting for.

These allegations are causing great damage to the democratic processes of this country and I do hope that all MPs, regardless of political party, will fully publish their expenses, will apologise publicly for any wrongdoing and will reimburse the tax-payer.

Julie Rook
Deal

Lydd objections run out of energy

*Open letter to Shepway council:
I attended British Energy-EDF's*

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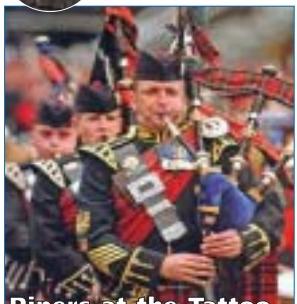
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Stand up for top comedy

Headliner Michael McIntyre's show is a sell-out, but there's still plenty to see at comedy festival

STAND UP!

Friday, May 22, to Monday, May 25
Quarterhouse, Folkestone

GIGGLE your way through the bank holiday with the first Stand Up! Folkestone Comedy Festival.

The headline act of this inaugural comic celebration is Michael McIntyre, a phenomenally popular comedian whose show sold out within hours of tickets going on sale.

The son of a scriptwriter for Kenny Everett, he evidently has funny bones and his rise to fame over the last few years has been stellar. His next tour includes dates at Wembley Arena, so securing this intimate gig at Quarterhouse is a real achievement for the Creative Foundation.

Although McIntyre's show has sold out, there is plenty more going on over the long weekend.

On Saturday, Tony Allen, the 'Godfather of alternative comedy', will be running a stand-up workshop for aspiring comics. There is a preparatory exercise which needs to be completed before the event.

BBC Radio 1's resident magician Chris Cox exerts his unique brand of magic and psychology on Saturday at 6pm, demonstrating the skills that earned him five-star reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and his debut West End show.

Watch the jaw-dropping antics of a mind reader who says he can't read minds in this hilarious and hugely entertaining show.

See six great comedians for just £10/£8 with Lonestar Comedy Club's Stand and Deliver at 8pm on Saturday. Fergus Craig, Gerry Howell, Danielle Ward, Anil Desai, Terry Saunders and Jim Smallman will keep the laughs coming at a recession-beating price.

Sunday sees a great line-up of free events and workshops for kids by improvisation troupe The Noise Next Door, Little Bulb Theatre, Usifu Jalloh and Emmanuel the Magnificent. At 4pm Ray Peacock will host the comedy trivia quiz, to



FESTIVAL LINE-UP: The Noise Next Door, the Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre and comedian Michael McIntyre are booked

see who can take the crown. The Variety Four-Pack at 8pm offers a great line-up of Rob Deering, Pete Firman and the Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre, with Ray Peacock acting as compere.

Deering's award-winning music-based comedy has earned appearances on BBC3's Annually Retentive,

BBC2's Never Mind The Full Stops

and regular guest spots on Channel 4's Big Brother's Big Mouth.

Firman has become one of the country's leading conjurors since his appearances on Channel 4's late night magic show Dirty Tricks, while hecklers are warned to beware of the razor-sharp and often confrontational Peacock.

The Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre presents an extraordinary show featuring songs, sketches, socks, violence and Shakespeare. They will also be performing a family-friendly show at 2pm on Sunday.

Bank Holiday Monday offers comedy for kids with James Campbell, the world's only stand-up for children, starting at 11.30am. The festival draws to a close with the return of The Noise Next Door at 3pm.

To book tickets, call 01303 858500 or visit www.standupfolkestone.com.



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with

JANE CONNOLLY

Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

**RICHBOROUGH
ROMAN FORT**Ongoing
Richborough Roman Fort

A RECENT revelation about one of the museum's exhibits makes a visit to Richborough Roman Fort even more fascinating.

Painstaking detective work by local games researcher Roly Corbett revealed that pieces of bone plating found at the site in the early 20th century came from a Roman dice tower. For more than 70 years it was believed that the pieces would have covered a box, until Mr Corbett recognised the design.

This was an important discovery, as the surviving pieces are from the only dice tower found in this country to date. Visitors to the fort can now see the pieces of



bone plating, engraved with geometric rosette patterns, in the site museum along with Mr Corbett's wooden reconstruction of a dice tower.

Dice would be inserted into the top of the tower and bounce along a series of sloping boards, before being dispensed at the bottom.

Richborough Roman Fort and Amphitheatre is open daily from 10am to 6pm until September 30. Tickets cost £4.30/£3.70 for adults, £2.20 for children and £10.80 for families.

For more information, you can visit www.english-heritage.org.uk.

**D-DAY ANNIVERSARY**Saturday, May 23,
to Monday, May 25
Dover Castle

training and air raid first aid sessions, as well as seeing how to detect and make safe the enemy's latest weapon, the deadly butterfly bomb. The castle will be bustling with the living history encampments, skirmishes, battles and frontline cookery demonstrations. Other attractions include an original Enigma code machine.

Dover Castle is the perfect location to mark D-Day, as the castle played an important role during the war with its underground military hospital and telecommunications station. It also accommodated hundreds of military personnel. Free tours of the tunnels will be available throughout the day.

Admission costs £10/£8 for adults, £5 for children and £25 for families. For more information, call 0870 333 1181 or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk.

TRAVEL back in time to World War Two as Dover Castle commemorates the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

The castle's rich history comes vividly to life as a wide variety of military personnel demonstrate what life was like during wartime. Frontline English, German and French troops mingle with local Home Guard volunteers in this living history lesson.

Visitors will be able to watch square bashing and drill instruction, swift rifle

KIM RICHEYSaturday, May 23
Tower Theatre, Folkestone

NASHVILLE music star Kim Richey brings her beautiful voice to Shepway for one night only this weekend.

The respected singer-songwriter is not only revered for her own performances, she is also a successful songwriter for other artists. Her music has been described as country and Americana, but her sound is difficult to categorise, so music lovers are urged to go along and find out for themselves.

Richey's self-titled debut album, released in 1995, provided her first hit Just My Luck and the follow-up, Those Words We Said. A more pop-oriented sound emerged with the 1996 album Bitter Sweet, and her songs have appeared on the soundtrack of popular US TV series, Angel. In July 2007 she performed in Washington at the Live Earth event. Her songwriting work includes a collaboration with Rodney Foster on Nobody Wins and as co-writer on the hit Believe Me Baby (I Lied) for Trisha Yearwood.



Support will be provided by local Americana group Sixteen Guineas, featuring Pete Brown.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £8 in advance or £10 on the night. To book, call Tony Cock on 01303 223925.

LeisureTV SPONSORED BY seafrance.com**LIVE & LOCAL****Get rugged up during fun day at the museum**

FAMILIES will be floored by the latest fun day at Dover Museum next Wednesday.

Adults and children are being offered the chance to make a piece of rag rug in a free workshop. Participants can just go along any time between 10am and 4.30pm. Admission is free for Dover District Council residents, proof of address required. Visit www.dovermuseum.co.uk.

Follow the light and you'll find the treasure

CHILDREN are invited to follow a treasure trail at South Foreland Lighthouse in St Margaret's Bay, Dover.

The free family activity will feature a trail sheet to guide young visitors around the grounds. It will be available between 11am and 3.30pm, from Tuesday to next Friday.

For more information call 01304 852463 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

It'll be a Diamond night with Mixed Emotions

IT will be a real family affair when Mixed Emotions perform at a pub in Dover this weekend.

The husband and wife duo has been performing together for 17 years and is now joined by their son on drums. Find out more at www.mixedemotionsworld.com. Mixed Emotions will be appearing at the Diamond Hotel in Heathfield Avenue on Saturday. Call the pub on 01304 202333.

Get down under with four-piece blues band

THE Oz are ready to turn your world upside down with their hard-driving R'n'B, blues and rock.

A four-piece band, The Oz are sure to get feet moving. Find out more about them online at www.theoz.biz.

The Oz will be playing at the Park Inn in Park Place, Dover, at 9pm on Saturday. For more details about the venue call the pub on 01304 203300.

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yourmusic

You'll be raving about the dance music at Hop Farm

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

BELGIAN mixmasters 2ManyDJs have been given top billing on the Hop Farm Festival's dance stage line up.

The cut-and-paste duo – famed for fusing tracks from the likes of the Velvet Underground, Destiny's Child, Dolly Parton and Salt 'n' Pepa into one essential album – will bring the Paddock Wood two-dayer to a close on Sunday, July 5.

Legendary French DJ Etienne De Crecy will perform live on the previous night.

The likes of Paul Weller, Doves, The View, Ash and Editors are set to grace the main stage over the weekend but Hop Farm organisers said anyone able to prise themselves away from the big draws would be in for a treat.

They said: "Headlining on Saturday we have the amazing Etienne De Crecy live, bringing his full-on show in his amazing cube structure.

"It is one of the best shows, if not the best, by a DJ.

"Sunday's headliner we have one of the biggest names in dance music, 2ManyDJs.

"They are going to be one of the highlights of this year's festival, I guarantee it'll be one of the most talked about shows in dance music circles this year.

"Check out the line up for details on the rest of bill... it is one of the best dance line up's this year. If you like your dance music, you won't want to leave this tent."

The Hop Farm Festival stands alone in the overcrowded festival market – offering an event free from ticket registration, VIP areas,



branding and sponsorship. This year the festival offers a weekend experience of boutique camping, top-notch food and traditional ales, with some of the best artists playing across three stages.

The Hop Farm Festival takes place at The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood, on Saturday, July 4 and Sunday, 5.

Weekend tickets cost £125 with day tickets priced at £65.

For more information on this year's event visit www.hopfarmfestival.com.

Saturday, July 4

- The Fratellis
- Pigeon Detectives
- The View
- Ash
- Echo and the Bunnymen
- Etienne De Crecy
- Florence and the Machine
- Noah and the Whale

Sunday, July 5

- Paul Weller
- Editors
- Doves
- 2ManyDJs
- Super Furry Animals
- The Twang
- Mystery Jets
- Ladyhawke



TOP BILLING: 2ManyDJs (top) have been given top billing on the dance stage line-up; and (above) legendary French DJ Etienne De Crecy will perform

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NOT FADING AWAY: My Last Mistake rock the crowd performing live



GETTING DOWN: 3bs Down perform live at Beacon Court in Gillingham



KENT UNSIGNED CHART

- 1 The Suspects – War of Words (from Margate)
- 2 Lost in Colour – Stay Awake Tonight (from Maidstone)
- 3 Directions – Equality Street (from Maidstone)
- 4 Shelta – Lets Talk (from Bexley)
- 5 The Flack – The Things Ya Do To Me (from Deal)

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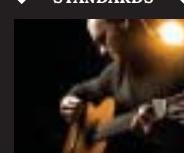
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- Why the recession isn't getting us down
- Don't let debt get the better of you
- Is working from home a cheaper option?
- Get an index-linked return on savings
- EU speaks out for small business
- Reasons behind company paid assistance
- Only one way for mortgage rates to go

- Three points of survival
- Communication is key in a downturn
- What to do if you need to close down
- Splitting assets in a divorce court

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Reaction to the Government's £2,000 incentive towards scrapping an older car in return for a new one was lukewarm from trade and customers alike. Find out how some car makers have embraced the scrappage programme and how you can benefit from the new system when purchasing a new motor

Essential guide to where you can save

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■ Bourne Road Garage in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

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Good advice for difficult times

THE experts can't seem to agree – one day we are told the green shoots of recovery are peeping through, the next they are nowhere to be seen.

Whatever the truth, it's certainly going to be a while before we

are all sleeping easy in our beds again and there are still plenty of choppy waters to deal with.

That's why this latest edition of Money Matters has plenty of good advice for consumers and businesses who are all looking to reduce their costs, save money and do some serious planning for the future.

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Follow Dad's Army to defeat the recession

By **TONY PATEY**

DON'T panic, Mr Mainwaring – one in every three South East small business bosses are evoking the Blitz-type attitude and keeping their chins up as the economic bombs rain down during the recession.

They're refusing to let the recession get them down, insisting it has had no impact on their personal lives, according to new research from independent financier Bibby Financial Services.

However, that does mean that two out of every three seem to have the opposite view ...

Anyway, many business owners in the South East are adopting various ways of coping:

- 47 per cent are refusing to cut out what could be seen as luxuries, such as Blackberries or company cars, which they clearly see as essential
- 69 per cent are continuing with holiday
- plans or other time off
- 76 per cent are not getting any less sleep
- 71 per cent are not seeing any less of their family
- 82 per cent are maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- just 12 per cent are drinking more alcohol.

Andy Leopold, Bibby's spokesperson for the



MILITARY STYLE: Businesspeople are taking Corporal Jones' advice and refusing to panic, in fact many of them are hanging onto their 'luxuries' like Blackberries and company cars

South East said: "Some might consider a Blackberry or company car a luxury, but for many small business owners in the South East today these are simply essentials which are helping with the day-to-day running of their business."

"Whereas previously business owners in the region may have been prepared to neglect their personal lives in order to sustain their business, these days they recognise the importance of trying to maintain some sort of work life balance, instead seeing time away from the business, such as holiday, as a tool to help them survive."

"However, while it's good to see business owners in the South East remaining positive, they also need to be prudent financially to get

through the downturn and not completely throw caution to the wind."

"With 77 per cent of business owners in the region now scrutinising finances more carefully, it's clear cash flow remains king. Luckily there are still plenty of ways for the region's business owners to stay on top of cash-flow issues and ensure those close to them don't suffer in the process."

Indeed, all but 11 per cent of business owners in the South East polled say they have learned something new from the experience of this recession. Thirty three per cent have learned to keep a closer eye on cash flow, 26 per cent have learned to plan better for the future and 14 per cent say they have become more shrewd.



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Don't let debt recovery drag your business down

By DAVID GREEN

EVEN for companies currently managing to weather the economic storm there are still many challenges to face.

Not least is the fact that overdue bills or worse still, customer debts, are spiralling out of control.

Ultimately, debt recovery is becoming one huge headache and more businesses than ever are having to spend their time chasing debt.

Overdue bills can be a nightmare to manage, and if you're a smaller business whose survival is dependant on regular cash flow, the urgency of the situation is magnified.

A good cash flow is critical for companies to be able to pay their staff and suppliers; not to mention if they are to have any hope at all of generating income for the owners and shareholders of the business.

Taking the right steps from the outset will allow you to maximise getting the money rightly owed to you without damaging your business relationships.

The first step is to ensure your terms and conditions are clear regarding payment, and if you are going to use an external company to collect overdue payments, make your intentions clear to your customer so there can be no misunderstandings.



CHALLENGES: Take the right steps to maximise the chances of getting money owed to you

tions clear to your customer so there can be no misunderstandings.

A solution needs to be put into action swiftly to give you every chance of getting your money back at the lowest cost to you.

Many businesses find it hard to chase a customer for the debts, particularly where the customer is another business, as there is a risk that attempts to recover debts will be seen as aggressive and relationships can sour.

Many companies lack confidence in making heavier demands for payment. Fears of losing future business coupled with emotional baggage can all too often interfere with this process.

But it is important not to lose sight of the fact the customer has failed to pay you the money they owe and you simply can't afford to jeopardise the financial stability of your own business or allow them to spiral into further debt.

These concerns can be avoided by a simple and effective recovery plan.

As the payment terms near their end, a 'friendly' phone call can, if necessary, be followed up in writing to instigate a gentle reminder of the outstanding payment due

and to re-emphasise your payment terms.

What has to be avoided is continual phone calls and letters chasing a debt as this wastes your time and stops you from concentrating on new business.

Enlisting the help of a recovery agent or a professional solicitor at the early stages could be beneficial in terms of saving you time and money in the long term, and it takes away the hassle and emotional concerns which often materialise.

However, debt collection agencies will usually charge a percentage of the total debt, which means they are likely to cherry-pick those larger debts and cases that will bring them a good guaranteed return, and this can be a costly option.

In our view, the most efficient debt recovery model is to use a combination of all the various options, but don't be afraid to allow those representing you to take the action that is necessary to recover the debt.

Knowing the right path to choose with a debt and what action to take if, and when, a judgement is obtained is extremely important as many cases get to judgement and then are unable to be enforced.

Debt recovery is not an exact science, but experience is all important.

- **David Green is spokesman for MTA Solicitors, which has an office in Bromley.**

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MONEY
MATTERS

Home is where the office is



By **JOHN GUTHRIE** and **DOUG SKILTON**

WITH the dole queue getting longer and recession-battling bosses seeking ways to cut costs, increasing numbers of people are starting to work from home.

As many as one in seven of the working population are now homeworkers.

The attractions of remote working are clear: the potential release from rental overheads and the freeing up of commuting time.

But there are practical and legal issues which must be balanced against the saving from office overheads before setting aside part of the home for business use.

We'd like to consider those who work totally from home as opposed to the occasional home worker. In many cases internal alterations will be carried out to the home to facilitate that remote working.

Planning permission is required when-

ever there is a material change in the planning use of a property. It is a matter of fact and degree in each case whether there has been such a change.

The key question for people intending to run a business from home is whether the overall character of the house will change from being a private home as a result of the business.

The most important factor to consider is the question of whether the business use is subservient to the residential use. The right to use land for a primary planning use includes the right to use it for a subservient or 'ancillary' use.

However, there is no hard-and-fast rule for deciding the point at which running a business from home will fall outside the scope of ancillary use.

Much will turn on the nature of the business use, but judicial guidance suggests that anyone using more than 10 per cent of their home for business use could be at risk of requiring separate planning permission.

Planning permission may also be required for any physical alterations that are needed to make the property suitable for the business use.

Compliance with building regulations will also be needed if there are



any changes to the home. As an example, a hairdresser who decides to run their business from home should remember that not only do structural changes in the property require Building Regulation Consent but also simpler measures such as the installation of a washbasin.

Business rates, as opposed to council tax, will apply to the part of the home used exclusively for business.

Remote workers should consider getting a separate phone line for their business to claim tax relief on business calls and also about reclaiming VAT on anything bought for business purposes.

A remote worker should always check both their deeds and mortgage conditions, or their rental agreement, to ensure that there are no restrictions against running a business from home.

If necessary they should apply for consent under the deeds and mortgage.

Rubbish (often overlooked) is another problem area and business waste should not be put in domestic refuse bins. Plastic business waste bags can be expensive.

From a practical viewpoint, will customers of the business visit the home and upset the neighbours? If it is necessary to have client meetings should they be at the client's premises instead?

Finally, remember to check that using your home for business will not invalidate your buildings insurance policy.

- **John Guthrie is an associate and Doug Skilton is a solicitor at Tunbridge Wells based Thomson Snell & Passmore.**

HOME OFFICE: There are practical and legal issues to working from home

Essential guide to where you can save

- H&H Flooring in Deal is offering free accessories with all laminate flooring
- KOS is offering £200 saving on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine. Only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99
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Guaranteeing a return for your savings

By JEREMY GATES

IF YOU believe our economy sits on a powder keg of inflation – and some fear its return might be the only salvation for Britain if Government plans to borrow £700 billion are carried through – there are sound arguments for savings which guarantee an index-linked return.

If they ponder Chancellor Alistair Darling's words carefully, savers might want an alternative to banks or building societies for part of their savings. In any case, the three per cent plus fixed-rate returns, now on offer from these institutions over two or three years, could look mean if inflation takes off.

It was therefore not coincidental that National Savings & Investments (NS&I) offered two new issues of Inflation Beating Savings certificates last week. Also called Index-linked

certificates, they enable savers to invest a maximum £15,000 per issue in three-year (19th issue) or five-year (46th issue) certificates.

Dax Harkins, NS&I senior savings strategist says they usually make a new issue of Index-linked certificates when they change the rate: "In this instance, the rate stays the same – Retail Prices Index (RPI) plus one per cent – if held for the full term, but investors wanted a new issue to allow them to put more money in."

Opportunity

As NS&I certificates are tax free, the equivalent rate is index-linking plus 1.25 per cent for basic rate taxpayers, and index-linking plus 1.67 per cent for higher rate taxpayers. On each anniversary, interest and index-linking are added to the certificate.

The last issue was in June, 2008, which effectively means NS&I offers an opportunity to salt away up to £15,000 per person per year, or £30,000 per couple, with returns free of income tax and capital gains tax (CGT), like ISAs.

Many savers value 100 per cent security for their cash. Index-linked Savings Certificates



SET: Putting your cash in National Savings & Investments certificates could be the answer

were launched by NS&I in 1975, and 600,000 investors hold £16bn in them against £39bn in Premium Bonds, which get more promotion.

With Premium Bond prizes falling to just one per cent, new £25 prizes have been introduced to ensure Bond holders win nearly one million prizes per month. With 39 billion Premium Bonds in circulation, the odds on any single bond winning are 36,000-1.

As Premium Bonds lose some appeal, the threat of inflation makes Index-linked certificates more attractive. If RPI goes negative they still guarantee the annual one per cent bonus on investments held to the end of their term. In fact, this is the first time a continuous period of deflation has been experienced since NS&I launched index-linked certificates.

With personal tax levels certain to rise after the next General Election, there is a strong case for using NS&I products to hold more savings outside the tax net. However, savers should remember Inflation Beating Savings pay no interest at all on withdrawals after one year, with returns thereafter weighted to favour those who remain for the full term.

"It won't have you jumping up and down with excitement, but this product already pays a better return than many instant access savings accounts, and returns could look good if inflation kicks in, maybe 18 months from now," Mark Dampier at Hargreaves Lansdown said.

Clearer

Kevin Mountford, Moneysupermarket.com, says NS&I products should be in any balanced savings portfolio: "With index-linking, you have the prospect of a fixed return, as opposed to accounts which are market-leading one moment and stragglers a few months later."

"Here there is the prospect of a definite return, over and above the cost of living."

Andrew Hagger, Moneynet.co.uk, says for savers purely concerned with inflation, it's a good home for your money. But he is not sure he would tie up money for that long at present: "Consider the West Bromwich BS E-Bond, paying 4.3 per cent before tax on a one-year bond (min £5,000), or perhaps ICICI Bank's Instant Access paying 2.45 per cent on a minimum £1, until the trend on rates becomes clearer."

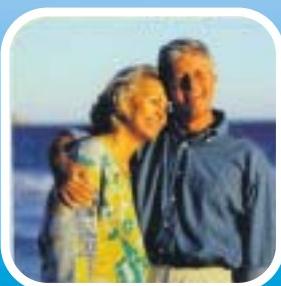
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"Where quality, security and service are never comprised"

EU acts to help small companies

By **GÜNTER VERHEUGEN**

European Commission Vice President, responsible for enterprise and industry policy

IN THIS present economic crisis everybody speaks about job losses in the big industries and big companies.

Governments are keen to take action and to find ways to support them. But there is also another side of the coin: who cares about the millions of small enterprises which are struggling for survival? I do.

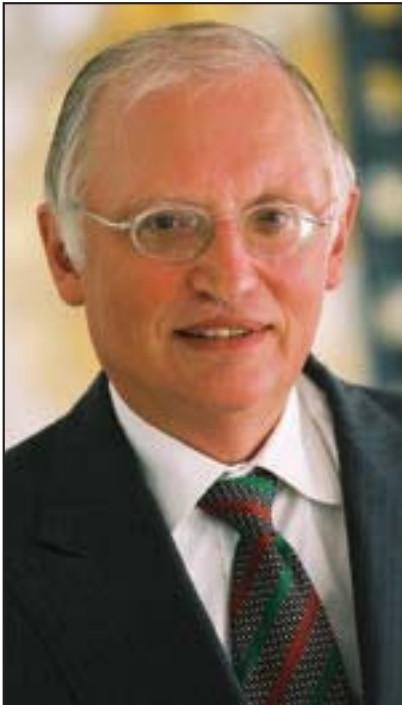
Because I know, without entrepreneurs there are no enterprises, without enterprises there are no jobs. And, therefore, I am convinced that in the crisis we must strengthen our efforts to give small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) the best possible framework-conditions.

Not being paid for the goods and services delivered is bad for a business in any circumstances, but becomes dramatic today as the economic crisis reduces alternative sources of finance and diminishes demand. The distance to bankruptcy can get dangerously short.

As government at all levels puts imagination to work looking for any useful measure to counter the crisis, they should not forget about the simplest – avoid the huge amount of invoices for the purchase of goods and services which they pay late after delivery.

That is why the Commission has decided it was time to upgrade EU rules on late payment in commercial transactions and proposed public authorities should as a rule pay their bills within a maximum of 30 days.

An incentive to clear the bills in time the



SMALL THINGS: Günter Verheugen sees the value of entrepreneurs and small enterprises

Commission suggests introducing a flat-rate compensation of five per cent cumulated with the late payment interest. In parallel, the European Commission commits itself to speed

up its own payment for the purchase of goods and services.

The proposal on late payments is only the latest in a series of initiatives to help SMEs taken by this European Commission since it took office in 2004 and which culminated with the proposal of the Small Business Act (SBA) in June of last year. This has found the agreement of all member States and the European Parliament.

The SBA puts forward a complete policy framework to improve the overall approach to entrepreneurship and to promote SMEs' growth by helping them tackle the remaining problems which hamper their development.

The act applies to all companies which have fewer than 250 employees: 23 million across the EU.

Key to this new policy framework is the application of the Think Small First principle. Henceforth, all public authorities in the EU are called to ensure that SMEs' interests are always taken into account in policy making.

The Commission has revised state aid rules to encourage Member States to do more for SMEs since public funding for training, research and development, environmental protection and other types of aid is important for SMEs.

We have proposed a new statute for a European Private Company which will allow SMEs to start up and operate according to the same company law provisions throughout the European Union.

Finally, I am happy to add that the Member States agreed to open up the option to apply reduced Value Added Tax rates for locally supplied services, including labour intensive services, such as hairdressing, catering, and repair.

To encourage and inspire new entrepreneurs

who are planning to set up a new business, we have also launched an Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs – a European exchange programme to help entrepreneurs acquire relevant skills for managing an SME by spending time working in another EU country with an experienced entrepreneur.

To free the hands of SMEs, we are cutting administrative burdens with full speed, eyeing the target to reduce administrative burdens on companies stemming from EU legislation by 25 per cent by 2012.

For example, in January the Commission adopted a proposal for a revision of the VAT Directive to remove the barriers to electronic invoicing. The yearly reduction potential could be as high as 18 billion euros in the mid-term.

Extra savings

In the case of company law, the Commission proposed to allow Member States to exclude micro-enterprises, with ten employees or less, from the scope of EU accounting directives, which could bring additional savings of seven billion Euros.

Moreover 24 Member States have given themselves a better regulation agenda.

Since access to finance is essential for SMEs, notably in times of crisis, the European Investment Bank devoted 30 billion euros to SMEs in Europe in the form of new loans granted via commercial banks. This scheme, approved at the end of 2008, is actively supported by the European Commission.

Now is the time, once and for all, to cement the needs of SMEs in EU policy. To get out of the current crisis we need to clear the path for those who want to create more jobs and are the key drivers of innovation, who will need to master the shift towards a low carbon economy.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Firms are helping you out to help themselves

By TONY PATEY

THE truth always comes out – and when firms dip into their pockets to help staff being booted out the door through no fault of their own it's not because the companies are being nice and kind.

The real reasons, according to one of our biggest recruitment consultancies, are to maintain a good reputation, hold onto key employees – and help managers to deliver the bad news.

It's euphemistically called outplacement, but it basically means easing unwanted or unneeded executives out of a company by pro-

viding company-paid assistance in finding them new jobs.

With short-term strategy firms cutting back on staff – as they always do come an economic downturn – more individuals are getting this type of support.

Now a study by Reed Consulting has revealed that aside from what it says is the moral obligation, there are many reasons why firms cough up to offer help.

A company spokesman: "In the event of a firm having to make redundancies, there is always the risk its reputation among potential employees and customers will be damaged.

"Three-quarters of firms felt provision of outplacement could improve the organisation's reputation, while a half believed it could help make them be seen as an employer of choice."

Also, perversely, firms think it helps them

retain staff. "Given its common proximity to redundancy programmes, respondents felt the provision of outplacement support helped the employer retain and motivate those staff not directly affected.

"It is a commonly held view that up to 25 per cent of top performers leave an organisation within 90 days of a major change announcement being made. Two-thirds of respondents agreed that offering outplacement support for staff being made redundant helped retain those who remained."

The study also found that more than 70 per cent of employers believe offering outplacement helps line managers implement redundancies "with a clearer conscience" and 87 per cent of those interviewed felt it eased the pressure on them.

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REPUTATION: Employers help staff move on because they feel it encourages others to stay with them

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Are mortgage rates about to start going up?

EIGHT weeks after the base rate hit a mind-boggling 0.5 per cent, last week's decision by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to leave rates unchanged hardens the consensus that mortgage rates go one way from here – up.

On the way down, tracker loans were a smart move for borrowers, shrinking monthly repayments close to zero in some cases.

As a new order takes shape, fixed-rate loans look a good defensive move for borrowers who fear rates, when they rise again, could stay high for some time.

Among lenders, there's a spring 'nip' in the air; a sense the worst is behind us.

Gloom began to lift in mid-April when our biggest lender, Halifax, offered to pay up to £1,000 of a homebuyer's council tax for a year to any borrower taking a mortgage with a deposit of at least 10 per cent.

Are lenders actually keen to find new customers with house prices still falling, possibly by eight to 10 per cent for the rest of 2009? Plainly they are, because rivals have followed Halifax's lead.

Woolwich, the lending arm of Barclays, has slashed rates on two, three, four and five-year fixes, starting at 3.69 per cent for two years (to maximum loan to value (LTV) of 70 per cent).

For remortgagors (max LTV 75 per cent), Abbey reckons its three-year fix at 4.09 per cent, seven-year at 4.99 per cent and 15-year at 5.38 per cent, are its lowest in a decade.

Abbey's Nici Auchlam-Gardiner says their research shows that for remortgagors, a third are looking for a tracker, and over half will choose a two-year tracker.

"With a best buy rate of Base Rate plus 2.45 per cent, borrowers should also seriously consider the two-year tracker."

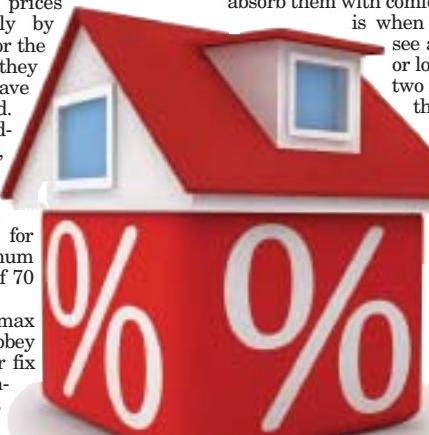
Andrew Hagger at MoneyNet.co.uk isn't so sure: "There is a feeling trackers won't look so good once rates move up again. New trackers around 2.5 per cent over base mean a rate of 5.5 per cent if base rate gets back to three per cent," he says.

And trackers often have Early Repayment Charges lurking in the small print, expensive when borrowers get another loan.

Fee-free deals are back in fashion too: Yorkshire Bank offers remortgages with no arrangement fees on fixed-rate, offset and current account loans.

But Hagger says fee free is not always cheapest: "On a £150,000 loan over 25 years (75 per cent LTV), for instance, an HSBC fix at 3.99 per cent with a £599 fee costs £1,570 less over three years than Alliance & Leicester's fee free loan at 4.69 per cent."

Perhaps the most encouraging sign mortgage markets are easing is HSBC's £1bn offered as 90 per cent LTV loans – a two-year



By JEREMY GATES

fix at 4.99 per cent (fee £1,499), a two-year fix at 5.49 per cent (fee £199) and a lifetime tracker at 4.09 per cent plus base rate (currently 4.59 per cent) with non-refundable fee of £999. To qualify, HSBC borrowers must open a current account, which charges a monthly fee – and with access to current account details, the bank could make further efforts to sell financial products.

HSBC, with its first direct subsidiary, could take 13 per cent of the 2009 mortgage market – against three per cent in 2007. It isn't saddled with unprofitable mortgages hitting rival lenders who grabbed market share before boom turned to bust.

Ray Boulger at brokers John Charcol says households should focus on two strategies at this stage. Firstly, money saved on low mortgage rates should go to pay outstanding debt on mortgages, credit cards, and other loans. Don't splurge on luxuries and holidays.

Secondly, rates will be higher than they are today, so borrowers should be in a position to absorb them with comfort: "The key question is when rates rise. We could

see a move in early-2010, or low rates could stay for two years. A big danger is that when the Bank of England injects its second £75bn into the economy – the first expires at the end of May – inflationary pressures could be unleashed, and rate rises would be needed to control them."

Whilst prices keep falling, borrowers who delay remortgaging could have problems finding a new loan in a year, if they need a higher LTV because of falling values.

Darren Cook at Moneyfacts.co.uk is equally fearful that lenders' big concern is to play safe: "Banks, far from predicting the end of the slump, are hedging bets by increasing the number of their best mortgages to those fortunate enough to have a 40 per cent deposit. The average mortgage rate for a 60 per cent LTV is 4.29 per cent, compared to 5.29 per cent six months ago, and availability within this tier has risen too."

Boulger says some borrowers might still take a tracker loan with a 'droplock' option enabling them to lock into a fix later. There is a case, for example, for taking an HSBC tracker and switching when HSBC offers fixes for longer than two years. But borrowers may have to pay more for a higher LTV limit.

"People keen to remortgage get a nasty shock from valuations at five to 10 per cent lower than they expected," says Boulger. "My advice, if you have equity of less than 30 per cent, is to fix straightforward and in most cases, to take a five-year fix, which will look cheap if rates stay high for two to three years."

"Borrowers on low LTVs (below 75 per cent) may have a case for not rushing into a fix. They should keep an eye on available deals, to fix in late-2009/early-2010."

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Make a confident investment in key areas of business

KENT'S business advisory service Business Link, says there are three areas to focus on if you want your firm to survive in the downturn.

The report Through the Recesssion by research company Opinion Matters highlighted the fact that businesses which are confident about their future had increased or maintained levels of investment in one of the three key areas; IT, marketing and training.

Investment does not necessarily mean a big cash outlay. It can be an investment of time, resources and knowledge focus – making the most of affordable options freely available through general purpose technology such as the internet.

Almost half of all successful businesses surveyed (47 per cent) had kept up investment in IT, indicating the IT infrastructure they had in place was helping to keep the workforce optimised for success.

For example, businesses with a mobile-enabled workforce were found to be 60 per cent more likely to forecast an increase in growth during the next 12 months – indicating the vital role flexible working practices



DEVELOPMENT: IT is one of three key areas worth focusing on for the future

and technologies play in successful business.

Among successful businesses, 43 per cent had actually increased investment in marketing, contributing to their success and long-term prospects.

You can get up to date with the latest low-cost online marketing trends at a sales and marketing event near you.

Rather than cutting training budgets over the past 12 months, successful businesses were more likely to have increased investment, with 39 per cent of these actually spending more on training in the last 12 months than ever before.

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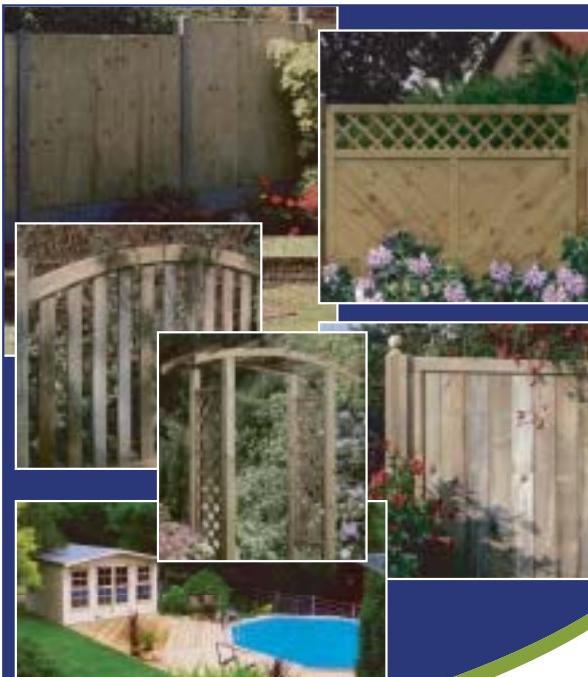
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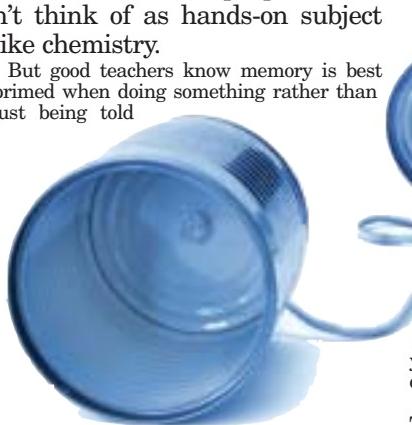
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Keep people in the know

By **TONY PATEY**

CLASSROOMS can be crucibles of delight – and angst – when it comes to doing ‘practicals’, especially in something like business studies, which most people wouldn’t think of as hands-on subject like chemistry.

But good teachers know memory is best primed when doing something rather than just being told



about it, and business studies is no exception. Take communication, one of the most important management tools.

I used to start my A-level communication module with Chinese whispers – sticking a student in each corner of the room and getting them to verbally pass round a short message I wrote down for the first person to memorise.

We all know the party game – the message ends up totally distorted at the end when the last student says what they had been told.

I once did it with Chinese students; it blew their minds, because in China they had to sit, listen and learn by rote. Actually physically doing something like this was alien, almost embarrassing, for them – but the lesson was still learnt.

When you’re running a business, word-of-mouth rumours can get out of hand and badly damage, even ruin, you. Send out the right message, in the right way, to internal and external stakeholders. And it’s even more important in an economic downturn.

As a reporter I’ve had emails about what was going to happen in newspaper groups at the other end of the country – and when the announcements came I found the info I had received was only vaguely right.

A rumour once swept round the world – in minutes – in the 80s that “Reagan was dead” – panic in all the markets, Wall Street and our stock exchange went berserk. But it was another Regan, different spelling, in the US administration – not dear old Ronnie.

It can be easy to hide, take a quick holiday perhaps, when there’s bad news to give out, even just to keep inside your office and hope the world’ll go away. But it doesn’t work.

“Do not hide,” is the advice of Paul A Argenti, professor of corporate communication at Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College. “Not hearing from you will breed additional suspicion and mistrust among stakeholders.”

Communicate often and early, he says, and talk to people directly – hearing information straight from the horse’s mouth gives reassurance and stops distortion – and people can question you directly, not second-hand. That alone can diffuse difficult situations.

Also, he says, get inside the media’s head. Try seeing how the press might spin your message.

A difficult one, that. A lot depends on the medium, and this is where some really specialised knowledge is called for, usually from someone in PR who has had a lot of experience as a journalist or broadcaster.

What they should tell you is that trying to put a gloss on something that doesn’t need it will soon be swept aside, and the information will be seen for what it is.

Very few people have succeeded in hoodwinking the media over bad news – the only time I’ve ever seen it done was when Harold Wilson was prime minister in the 70s.

Inflation was rocketing, shock horror. Mr Wilson, a very clever man, brought in the first index-linked savings certificates – they were called Granny Bonds because they were for retired people (but, of course, everyone gave money to their grannies to cash in on them).

The media gave the thumbs-up because people now had the chance to make some money. Until some maverick City reporter on a tabloid stood up at a press conference and asked: “Isn’t this giving people a vested interest in rising inflation, when we should be doing everything we can to bring it down?”

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By TONY PATEY

EVEN in the good times companies close or are taken over. So, if the worst does happen, what do you need to do?

Business Link has the following advice about the key points you will need to consider if you are thinking of selling or closing.

Who you need to tell

Your tax and any official records concerning your business will need to be up to date and complete when you sell your company.

You should also inform all your customers and suppliers so they have the chance to raise any outstanding payments, credits and liabilities, and you can account for them when you finalise your accounts and tax affairs.

You will need to follow the necessary statutory procedures and form filling to resolve any outstanding tax, VAT and National Insurance matters with HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

If you are selling a company and there will be changes to its secretary or directors, you must inform Companies House.

If you employ more than 50 people you will also need to take account of the Information and Consultation of Employees (ICE) Regulations.

Employees

You have obligations to safeguard their rights, finalise their pay and deductions, and issue their P45 form. You may also be able to offer them help in coping with the challenges arising from losing their job.



STAFF: As an employer you are obliged to safeguard the rights of your workforce

Tax and VAT when closing

When you close your business, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) will need to assess how much your final tax bill should be. It is essential to let HMRC know of any possible tax liabilities you have as soon as they are known, even if you are currently unable to pay the tax

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you owe. If business assets are sold and the proceeds go to the individual owners of the business, or if shares in the company are sold, the individuals concerned may have to pay Capital Gains Tax.

If you are VAT registered, you will need to inform HMRC. Once they are satisfied that your registration should be cancelled they will

confirm the date and issue a final VAT return, on which you account for VAT on stock and certain assets on hand at the close of business on the day your registration is cancelled.

Insolvency and bankruptcy

Bankruptcy applies to individuals, and is one route you can take if you are a sole trader

or partner in a partnership and have debts you cannot pay.

It frees you from your debts, but your assets are divided among your creditors and restrictions may be placed on your future business activities by a Bankruptcy Restrictions Order issued by a court if your conduct is considered to have been dishonest or blameworthy – this can last between two years and 15 years.

A company may be forced to close by being taken to court by its creditors, lenders, shareholders, or by the Government or legal authorities seeking to wind up the business.

Alternatively, the owners or directors of the business may decide not to continue operating the business and apply to have the business wound up.

The court may rule that the company is passed into the hands of the Official Receiver. The receiver runs the company in the best interests of creditors and shareholders until its liquidation – ie, the sale of the company's assets. Any money raised is used to pay off the company's debts.

Tax and VAT when selling

You will need to follow the necessary statutory procedures to resolve any outstanding tax, VAT and National Insurance matters with HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

When you sell a business, you may have to pay Capital Gains Tax if you made a profit – referred to as a gain – from the sale of the assets. But, if you use the proceeds from the sale to buy another business, you might be able to defer the gain through business asset roll-over relief.

If your company is registered for VAT, contact HMRC and complete form VAT 7 to cancel your registration, or form VAT 68 to transfer your registration to the new owner.

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Divorce doesn't have to split up your business

NOT all problems faced by businesspeople are just in the boardroom and workshop.

If you own a business and you're going through a divorce you can take some comfort from a more realistic approach towards the valuation of your assets, says a Kent lawyer.

Susi Gillespie, a solicitor specialising in divorce at law firm Furley Page, says the change of heart follows a recent High Court judgment where a wife's claim following a 15-year marriage hinged on the estimated value of her husband's restaurant business.

The wife reckoned it was worth £5.3 million and the husband £1.7m. In summing up, the judge stressed that the valuation of a business was an art not a science and ultimately a matter of opinion. He also pointed out that the business in question had been operating successfully at the same site for more than 30 years, so it couldn't be defined as solely matrimonial property.

The judge refuted the wife's unsubstantiated claim that the family had received benefits in kind from the business which were equivalent to £80,000 a year.

Ms Gillespie said: "Detailed evidence from forensic accountants and an expensive dispute over the exact value of the business may be pointless if the business is the means by which the husband is going to earn his income and maintain the family in the future."

"The case also shows that where a business was started before a marriage, the husband



FALL OUT: Susi Gillespie, inset, says the courts are more realistic about business assets

will get some credit for the value it had already acquired so its total value won't be treated as part of the matrimonial pot. Just as important, this case highlights the need for allegations of fringe benefits from a business

to be properly demonstrated if they're going to be reflected in the value of a business."

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BIG SAVINGS: Check out small cars like the Chevrolet Matiz and Mazda2 to cut your fuel bills and emissions – and your road tax

Road tax weapon is blunted but drivers can save money

By STEVE LOADER

GOVERNMENT efforts to use road tax to beat drivers into giving up so-called gas guzzlers have met with mixed success.

There can be no doubt that escalating tax or vehicle excise duty (VED) over the past couple of years has helped fuel downsizing, but there was outcry after the March, 2008, Budget at 'draconian' rates to be applied to larger cars, especially with the recession looming.

Consequently, Chancellor Alistair Darling backtracked last November and proposed amended charges from April 1, 2009, to soften the blow at the top end of the market, though the Government says VED will continue to be amended in future to maintain the downward force in vehicle sizes and emissions.

They will also continue to be based on CO2 emissions rather than fuel consumption and apply only to cars registered after March 1, 2001; inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year if the engine is 1,549cc or less and then £185 if it is above – something of a bargain for the owners of large older 'gas guzzlers'

if they are content to bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

The new rates are weighted even more in favour of the latest, cleanest and most miserly small cars. Models emitting 100g/km of CO2 or less, like the new Ford Fiesta ECOnetic, for instance, qualify for Band A or zero rating.

The payable steps are: Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35; Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120; Band F (141-150g/km) – £125; Band G (151-160g/km) – £150; Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175; Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215; Band L (226-255g/km) – £405; Band M (255g/km plus) – £405.

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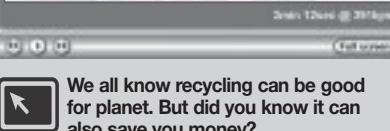
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Fuel for thought



THERE are signs that diesel – the wonderfuel of the past – could run out of puff as the race to cut emissions and save money gets tougher.

Its original appeal was the cheapness of the fuel, greater mpg and the better low down pulling power of the engines and their ability to meet tighter emissions legislation.

However, diesel now commands an increasing premium against petrol and there are doubts whether the engines can continue to meet ever tougher emission laws.

Meanwhile, petrol has hit back with smaller, lighter and cleaner engines with turbocharging for flexibility, while there are other options emerging to save money and the planet.

Hybrid

These partner conventional engines with electric units, but two powerplants and power supplies – fuel tank plus batteries – mean extra weight, while production complexity raises prices so buyers must cover many miles to balance this. Motorway mpg is hardly better than a standard car. High toxicity of the batteries is also a worry at the end of the car's life.

LPG

Liquid petroleum gas seems an excellent alternative fuel due to lower duty and emissions and cheaper car tax. However, the

calorific value and consequent mpg is slightly lower than petrol and it will cost at least £1,500 to convert an existing vehicle.

There are more LPG filling points across the country than before though and LPG costs about half that of petrol and diesel at the pump and emits less CO₂ and with fewer NOx and particulates.

Electric

These should be cheap to run, but battery technology cannot yet guarantee ranges to sat-

isfy. There is the worry too that emissions are simply transferred from an exhaust pipe to the chimney of a fossil fuel-burning power station.

Biofuels

Fuel derived partly from vegetable matter appeals since plants absorb CO₂ during growth and simply release it again when burned. Most road fuels in the UK will contain at least five per cent biofuel by next year, but there is concern that using arable land to grow 'biofuel' will strain global food supplies.

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Drive clever – save better

By STEVE LOADER

MAN and machine in harmony can slash pounds off your motoring bill.

The key is to downsize and run a cheaper car and then save even more by smarter driving and journey planning.

Avoid short journeys and get fitter by walking or cycling; a cold engine wastes fuel and can produce 60 per cent more pollution than a warm one and short car journeys require extra servicing and wear the engine faster.

If you must drive then follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. If you commute, think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines reduce fuel economy by ten per cent or more. Catalytic converters do clean emissions, but only when they are properly maintained.
- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.
- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.
- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes



SAVINGS: You can cut motoring bills through better driving and downsizing to a city car like the new Nissan Pixo or Skoda Fabia supermini at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use. Open windows cause drag and lower fuel economy. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and accessories and wide tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so

try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur diesel (City diesel) or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider a conversion to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and cleaner.
- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank right to the brim and slow down your car by carrying more weight than is necessary?
- Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions if stuck in a jam.
- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.

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■ Wildlife Heritage Foundation Animal Park in Ashford is offering an amazing day being close to big cats. All-day dedicated guide with buffet lunch, tea/coffee for only £99

■ Robins and Day Motors in Maidstone, Canterbury and Rochester are offering MOTs from £39.99. Service and MOT from £129.99 and seasonal checks from £19.99

■ H&H Flooring in Deal is offering free underlay upgrade on all carpets

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phones just £24.99 save £20

■ Canterbury Hyundai in Canterbury is offering £29.95 MOTs while you wait

■ KOS is offering a set of Bypass AND anvil secateurs for just £16.99, save £10

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

New car deal starts

By STEVE LOADER

REACTION to the Government's £2,000 incentive towards scrapping an older car in return for a new one was lukewarm from trade and customers alike.

Carmakers and dealers could also be forgiven for biting their lips on learning that they must contribute half the Government's two grand giveaway.

Nevertheless, most of the trade has not only embraced the deal, but put extra incentives on the table, such as even more cash, extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no longer a big deal when interest rates are so low.

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and it is tempting to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

Canny buyers will also know they should get a shed-load of discount at the moment, whether or not they currently drive a 'banger' ten years old or more and qualify for the scrapage grant.

Of course, anyone who has a scrapper to cash in has a further bargaining chip not to be tossed lightly into the deal.

Britain's market leader Ford says buyers can expect up to £5,000 off some of its cars, including the scrappage allowance.

Look at the extremes of the market to make the best use of the scheme though. A £2,000 grant buys a lot of any small car like the Hyundai i10 – Germany's scrappage scheme



OFF THE ROAD: The new scheme encourages you to send your old car for scrap

has boosted i10 sales by 662 per cent – and you could not expect usually to get a few hundred quid off when profit margins on small cars match their size. However, a £2,000 handout makes it more affordable to someone on a tight budget and it will be cheaper to fuel and tax and better for the environment.

At the other end of the scale, what about that Beemer you always wanted? Check out a BMW 116d (from £17,605). You would normally struggle to get money off – certainly not £2,000 – and you start saving even more with an average of 60mpg.

Anyone buying a new car is still taking a big step though unless they aim to save longer term though lower fuel bills and road tax.

The Government is using escalating road

tax or VED (vehicle excise duty) to drive people into smaller and cleaner cars and a new scale of zero to £405/year came into force on April 1 (see previous page) and is set to become tougher.

By 2010, gas guzzling limos or 4x4s may face £950 road tax in the first year, although anyone spending £50-100,000 on a car is unlikely to be put off by such a paltry sum. As a result, some manufacturers have produced models exempt from VED, by sneaking below the 100g/km CO₂ emissions mark into band-A.

Most manufacturers also now have an 'Eco' sub-branding for their lowest emission models – Vauxhall uses the ecoFLEX sub-branding.

Brilliant as they are, 'eco' models often cost more since they have diesel engines and spe-

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| 2008 (58) NEW SHAPE FIESTA 1.25 STYLE 3 DOOR | Squeeze Metallic, 1 Owner, 4,500 miles | £8,495 |
| 2008 (57) NEW SHAPE FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5 DOOR | Panther Black, Air Conditioning, 1 Owner, 8,000 miles | £10,495 |
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to make more sense



INCENTIVE: Vauxhall has embraced the Government's scrappage programme, but is topping up the £2,000 treasury/manufacturer grant with cashbacks and other deals on certain models – the popular Corsa supermini qualifies for zero per cent finance as well as grant aid

cial 'green' features that do not yet deliver the economy of scale savings available to makers across the whole model range.

What is more, saving road tax is not such a great incentive when many conventional superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year anyway; over three years with an

eco model, saving £105 is irrelevant if you spend more on buying that car and are then putting expensive diesel in the tank.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for low mileage users, while emission and consumption levels

are closing the gap on the diesel equivalents.

Finally, look again at what you have to part-exchange; you might have lost a packet in depreciation on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

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Jenny Lye

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IN STORE**Shock horror, author signing at Bluewater**

INTERNATIONAL best-selling teenage horror writer Rachel Caine will be making a rare appearance at Bluewater this weekend.

The author of the Weather Warden and Morganville Vampires books will be signing copies at Waterstone's at 11am on Saturday. The fifth book in the Morganville Vampires series, Lord of Misrule, is not due to be published until July but there is a possibility that copies will be available to buy at the signing.

Fly along to Dove Spa for special promotions

TO celebrate the grand re-opening of Dove Spa Bromley, customers are being offered some very special promotions.

Until May 31, new and existing customers can enjoy a Hydra facial treatment for just £10. Book any Dove Spa Signature facial treatment after the Hydra and receive a free In My Defence Anti Pollution Serum, worth £30.

Virgin Active members will receive a 25 per cent discount during May. Call 0844 800 2152 or visit www.dovespa.co.uk.

It's a Breeze making cash from your junk

A SPRING clear-out could result in extra cash with the help of the new Collectables Manual.

Written by TV presenter, journalist and consultant Jamie Breese, the book uncovers the hidden value in those old toys, phone cards, postcards and ceramics. From Bagpuss to the Beatles, the book helps to identify the gems among the junk.

The Collectables Manual is published by Haynes and is priced at £16.99.

Bring on the barbecue and enjoy the outdoors

ENJOY alfresco dining in the great outdoors during National Barbecue Week.

The annual event runs from bank holiday Monday to Sunday, May 31. With the British public becoming ever more daring with their tastebuds, many are experimenting with more exotic foods than the standard burgers and sausages.

Find inspiration for your barbecue bash online at www.nationalbbqweek.co.uk. More advice on alfresco living can be found at www.gastro-alfresco.co.uk.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

Eurovision Song Contest

BBC1, Saturday, May 16

THERE are few non-sporting events on television big enough to force a postponement of the best-laid plans.

In my naivety I'd scheduled a night out on Saturday, without reckoning on the strangely alluring power of a Norwegian violinist.

Cupid-faced Alexander Rybak woed the 100 million-plus audience with his whimsical storytelling charm, smashing Eurovision records in the process.

The annual kitsch fest, now in its 53rd year, has undergone some changes, including a supposed end to the mutual backslapping between 'partner' nations which characterised this competition in recent years.

Of even greater significance, the BBC in its wisdom replaced the much-loved irreverent commentary of Terry Wogan, whose musings provided as much entertainment as the performers on stage, with that of another Irish chat show host (albeit with mixed results).

Graham Norton was given the task of filling those voluminous shoes and the size of the occasion seemed at first to overwhelm him.

His initial sarcastic put-downs came across as clumsy attempts to emulate the great Wogan, but the increasingly colourful acts on stage helped him naturally assume the great man's mantle.

One wonderfully wry observation was about how the Ukraine entry's elaborate set-up, which included Roman centurion dancers, required the singer to remortgage her home.

Norton quipped seamlessly: "So, if you are looking for a cheap property in the Ukraine area..."

As for the UK effort, our hopes



TOUCH ACT: Norton took over from Sir Terry

were pinned firmly to rising starlet Jade Ewen. Joined by Andrew Lloyd Webber on piano, her song It's My Time was typical musical grandstanding, a big ballad in the same mould of so many of the impresario's West End shows.

I didn't find it inspiring, but somehow most of Europe's 42 nations dialled up to propel her performance to fifth in the table, the UK's highest finish since 2002.

Disillusioned by our own contribution, I was moved to vote for Turkey's offering, Hadise's Dum Tek Tek, which hit all the right notes, so much so that the rest of the UK gave them the maximum "douze" points.

But the ensuing avalanche of support for Norway's new favourite son confirmed why the show still draws in huge numbers.

Despite each country's obvious partiality for their neighbours and the occasional penchant for the odd or quirky, the grinning youngster with his violin managed to capture the heart of a continent.

Having passed the first hurdle, could it be only another 29 years before it's "Arise, Sir Graham"?

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS

(Jan 21-Feb 19) USUALLY you keep a tight control over your emotions, but that may not be the case this week. A difficult relative could make you very angry. You resent their attempts to divert you from a treasured ambition. Keep in mind you can pursue this goal now you are no longer under their wing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



PISCES

(Feb 20-Mar 20) IT will be challenging getting your ideas across. At times it feels like people are deliberately twisting your words. Maybe it's because they're threatened by your plans. Instead of trying to win their approval, put your agenda into motion. People will respect you a lot more for it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



ARIES

(Mar 21-Apr 20) YOUR financial picture is mixed. Taking on an unorthodox job will bring in plenty of extra cash, but you'll have to restrain yourself from spending it all. Friends have a way of talking you into costly endeavours. Instead of caving in to peer pressure be content with what you have.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER

(Jun 23-Jul 23) TAKING charge of a group will bring both pleasure and pain. On the plus side, you'll be able to put your knowledge to good use. However, some members of the team will be jealous of your success. Don't bother trying to win them over. Keep doing the best job you can.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



GEMINI

(May 22-Jun 22)

WORKING behind the scenes has mixed results.

On one hand, you can take your

rivals by surprise. On the other,

you could be branded as deceptive.

Don't pretend to be more exper-

enced than you are or you could be

exposed. Show respect to someone

with extensive experience.

• To find out more about what the stars have in

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LEO

(Jul 24-Aug 23)

RESIST the urge to use

your social status for personal

gain. If you're trying to win

somebody's heart, it's better to

keep a low profile. Your beloved

isn't impressed by flashy gestures;

he or she wants to know the real

you. Arrange a casual date where

the two of you can just talk.

• To find out more about what the stars have in

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VIRGO

(Aug 24-Sep 23)

DEALING with some-

body from a different

background can be diffi-

cult. It's hard to read their body

language. When in doubt, ask a direct

question and you'll avoid confu-

sion. If your new friend offers to teach you

a skill, accept. You will thrive on

the intellectual stimulation.

• To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SCORPIO

(Oct 24-Nov 22)

THERE'S lots of pushing

and pulling involved in a

close relationship. On one hand,

you're delighted by your friend's

practical methods. On the other,

you don't like having your emo-

tional approach dismissed. There

has to be a compromise. Don't lay

a guilt trip on a negligent friend.

• To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOUR health could be

delicate this week, so take

it easy. Overindulging in food or

drink will slow you down when

you have to be efficient. Friends

can help you stay on the straight

and narrow. Tell them you need to

follow a strict diet and stick to a

brisk exercise regimen.

• To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



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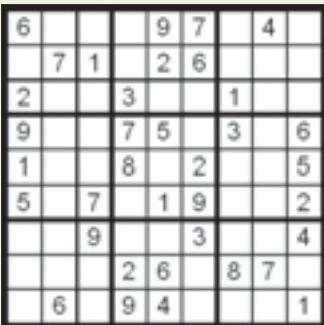
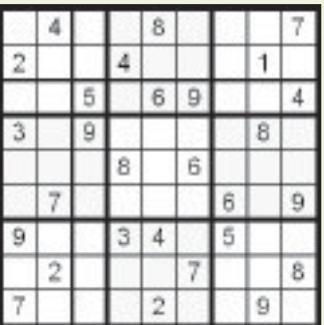
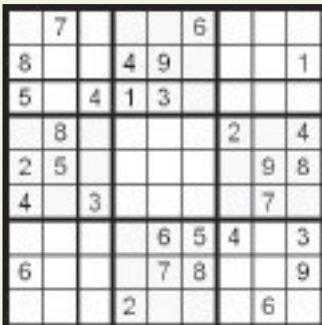
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No88

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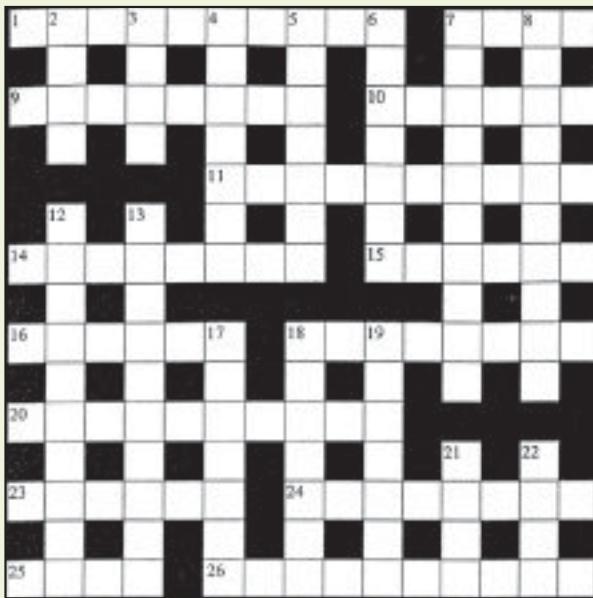
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY**MEDIUM****HARD****CRYPTIC CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 But this store does not have a monopoly (6,4)
- 7 Drive south round sainted Cornish town (4)
- 9 Pair is entering genuine retribution (8)
- 10 Drive black aero-engine (6)
- 11 Head off finally? (10)
- 14 Relaxed but gloomy (8)
- 15 Jack, clown stopping short, is very strong man (6)
- 16 Gang leader strangely urged, having feeling of resentment (6)
- 18 Slim lady cavitred in a depressing way! (8)
- 20 Winning – in a game with horse chestnuts, say! (10)
- 23 Faster sort of air attack (6)
- 24 Number of starting-places on golf-links, or on the wagon (8)
- 25 Be including semi-ripe cheese (4)
- 26 Breathtaking (10)

DOWN

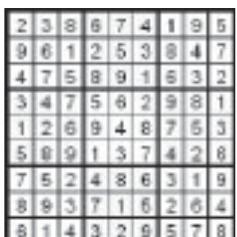
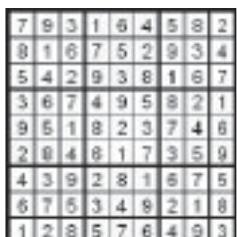
- 2 In the horsebox encouraged cattle (4)
- 3 Informer's name on chest (4)
- 4 Live out classy part remaining (7)
- 5 Hag coming from chalet, about 50 (7)
- 6 On exercises in part wall (7)
- 7 Unimportant abstract (10)
- 8 Happening to take posh friend finally (10)
- 12 After teatime get publicity for somewhere for the rest of the night (4-6)
- 13 Poor Dean with quite a problem (10)
- 17 Some of the clientele mentioned part (7)
- 18 Néér-do-well on fishing-boat (7)
- 19 Put forward plan that gets Gus upset (7)
- 21 Fleece that might be pulled over one's eyes (4)
- 22 Green cloth? (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE**QUICK CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Greet (5,5)
- 7 Rescue (4)
- 9 Smoked beef (8)
- 10 Habituated (6)
- 11 Military power (10)
- 14 Mb in computing (8)
- 15 Gambling (6)
- 16 Greek goddess of wisdom (6)
- 18 Plant with nodding flowers (8)
- 20 Evade capture (4,3,3)
- 23 Nap (6)
- 24 Gypsy dancing (8)
- 25 Ego (4)
- 26 Setting aside (10)

DOWN

- 2 Leg-pull (4)
- 3 Bird of prey (4)
- 4 Rumour (7)
- 5 Moonies (anag.) (7)
- 6 Lively party (7)
- 7 Substantial repast (6,4)
- 8 Camera attachment (10)
- 12 Plaque (10)
- 13 Mackintosh (10)
- 17 Attain (7)
- 18 Cone-bearing tree (7)
- 19 Ancient Greek musical instrument (7)
- 21 Yank (4)
- 22 Religious image (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No87****EASY****MEDIUM****HARD**

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No87

ACROSS: 1 Bastille Day 9 Nimrod 10 Eulogia 12 Rejoice 14 Torquay 15 Ventilation 16 Ike 17 Net 19 Regrettable 22 Sweater 23 Lambast 24 Afflict 25 Brazil 26 Candlelight. **DOWN:** 2 Abidjan 3 Termini 4 Lad 5 Electric eel 6 Aileron 7 Agouti 8 Mary Celeste 11 Driving seat 13 Exaggerated 18 Tee off 19 Retsina 20 Timpani 21 Bearish. 25 Bye.

QUICK SOLUTION No88

ACROSS: 1 Bring a cassette 8 Little by little 10 Stratford 11 It's legal 12 Arun 13 This is to 14 Cassette 15 Ventilation 16 Redundant 17 Tupper 18 Jaffa 19 Art Encouraging 20 Curried 21 Pernil 22 Entomologist 23 Lemured 24 Sigh 25 Art **DOWN:** 2 Abidjan 3 Termini 4 Lad 5 Electric eel 6 Aileron 7 Agouti 8 Mary Celeste 9 Hymn 10 Lemured 11 Imitate 12 Lot 13 Ballon 14 Cabble 15 Selfless 16 Ethereal 17 Tupper 18 Jaffa 19 Art Encouraging 20 Curried 21 Pernil 22 Entomologist 23 Lemured 24 Sigh 25 Art **ACROSS:** 1 Bringing a cassette 8 Little by little 10 Stratford 11 It's legal 12 Arun 13 This is to 14 Cassette 15 Ventilation 16 Redundant 17 Tupper 18 Jaffa 19 Art Encouraging 20 Curried 21 Pernil 22 Entomologist 23 Lemured 24 Sigh 25 Art **DOWN:** 2 Abidjan 3 Termini 4 Lad 5 Electric eel 6 Aileron 7 Agouti 8 Mary Celeste 9 Hymn 10 Lemured 11 Imitate 12 Lot 13 Ballon 14 Cabble 15 Selfless 16 Ethereal 17 Tupper 18 Jaffa 19 Art Encouraging 20 Curried 21 Pernil 22 Entomologist 23 Lemured 24 Sigh 25 Art

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■ BY PAUL MCGURK

"JUST listen," says our guide. "Listen to the peace and quiet."

Our boat has ground to a halt in a semi-prehistoric setting on the surface of the Sapote tributary of the Amazon, a riot of greenery and dark waters all around us.

Then you hear the rustling of trees, the calls of hidden creatures and the buzzing of insects, and realise that this place, a million miles from anywhere, is never, ever quiet.

Welcome to the jungle.

Departing from the jungle city of Iquitos, in Peru, our 60ft MV Delfin riverboat snakes its way along tributaries of the Amazon few people have seen.

Guided by Adonay and Juan-Luis, the

sensation of our 20ft skiffs shooting across the brown surface of the river is thrilling enough.

Every conceivable creature is there to be spotted – stripy three-toed sloths, lazy iguanas, white-faced saki monkeys, squirrel monkeys with their post-watershed behaviour and howler monkeys that send out eerie cries.

There are opportunities to catch piranhas with some meat on a stick at the Caro Curahuate tributary.

Charming by day, the river takes on a different, yet alluring, character after sunset.

Creatures appear in the darkness. A clown tree frog is briefly in my hands before it hops

into the undergrowth, while a hairy, pink-toed tarantula crawls up the limb of a tree not four feet away from my head. It's fair to say that the Amazon is not the place to go if you have issues with beasties and creepy crawlies.

With mosquitos in abundance, you will need to be well stocked with repellent, plus anti-malaria medication and other vaccines.

If all this sounds like roughing it, the contrast could not be sharper with the comforts of life aboard the Delfin.

You can relax on the top deck with a pisco sour – a cocktail made with Peru's national spirit – and in the dining room you can enjoy

first-class gourmet meals, including catfish and giant snails served in the shell.

Your first stop in Peru is likely to be the capital Lima. For an overnight stay, the Miraflores Park Hotel by the sea is one of the best options.

Lima is Peru's gastronomic capital, boasting coastal, Andean and even jungle cuisine. With fishing being a major local industry, seafood markets are the ideal place to find fresh fish.

Lima Cathedral, a study in Gothic grandeur, boasts a chilling trip through the catacombs underneath, with the skulls and bones of generations of people buried in its walkways, even as Sunday Mass goes on above.

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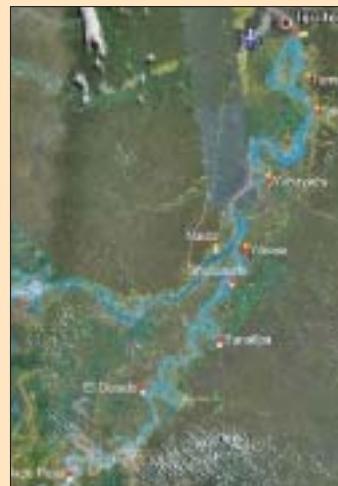
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| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Time difference | -Five hours (GMT) |
| Capital | Lima |
| Language | Spanish |
| Population | 28.2 million |
| Currency | £1 = 4.6 Nuevo Sol |
| Religion | Catholic |
| Climate | Diverse |

Travel details

Paul McCurk travelled with Peru's tourist board PromPeru and travel operator Cox & Kings, which offers a six-night tailor-made Amazon Cruise itinerary combining a four-night cruise on the MV Delfin with two nights in Lima, from £2,775 including flights ex-London and Manchester with KLM via Amsterdam and LAN Peru, B&B (full-board on cruise), transfers and excursions. Add £35 supplement ex-Glasgow. Cox & Kings: 0207 873 5000 and www.coxandkings.co.uk. Destination information: see www.peru.info. Yellow fever, typhoid and hepatitis A vaccines are essential, plus plenty of sunblock. High-water season in the Amazon is December-May.





PROPERTY NEWS

Call for Government to act on energy saving

THE Federation of Master Builders has called on the Government to act in response to the draft Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation.

The aim of the consultation is a long-term plan to cut carbon emissions from both homes and businesses, and ultimately to reduce emissions by 80 per cent by 2050.

It is all part of the Government's growing commitment to reducing carbon emissions – thought to be one of the main factors responsible for the problem of global warming.

But the federation has said the wheels need to be put in motion now, with a delivery plan backed by financial incentives if all of Britain's homes are to be upgraded by 2030.

Brian Berry, director of external affairs, said: "The Government's aim to upgrade all of Britain's homes by 2030 is not going to succeed unless the financial incentives are put in place to create a new market for greener, more energy-efficient homes."

"Householders have still to be convinced about the merits of spending thousands of pounds on energy-efficient improvements with little prospect of seeing a return on their money."

Agency targets FTBs

THE UK's largest online network of estate agents has offered its tips for first-time buyers who are considering their first steps on to the property ladder.

Email4property.co.uk believes activity from this end of the market will accelerate over the summer months as improved affordability begins to infiltrate the housing market.

Steve Lees, head of marketing at email4property.co.uk, said: "With property prices at their most affordable for a number of years, now is proving an excellent time for first-time buyers to secure their first home."

"While lenders are taking a much more cautious approach at the moment, there are still some good deals out there for any buyers who are in a position to provide a reasonable deposit."

Lloyds predicts upturn in market by year's end

■ BY NICK AMES

PROPERTY owners have negotiated the worst of the recession as house prices are set to rise again by the end of the year, according to the country's biggest lender.

Optimistic predictions that the market is to bottom out have come from experts at Lloyds, who have said that prices will now fall by just another six per cent before turning the corner.

As a result, by the end of the year, the market will begin to pick up again, with values starting to increase once more. But other analysts have emphasised the worst is not quite over – and the coming months will not see any quick respite from the slump.

Optimistic

The forecast comes as financial commentators grow more optimistic about the outlook for the UK economy and stock market, with the FTSE 100 now showing a gain for the year.

Lloyds, which has a 30 per cent share of the mortgage market, previously thought house prices would fall 15 per cent this year – or a drop of about 34 per cent from the August 2007 peak average price of £199,612.

However, the company's analysts now believe the decline is likely to be closer to ten per cent, with prices probably bottoming within months.

As a result, as prices are already down 3.8 per cent this year, according to the Halifax house price index, this means a further fall of just six per cent before the upturn.

Stephen Noakes, of Lloyds, said: "I think we will only see about ten per cent to 12 per cent falls this year."

"For the first time, people are thinking that house prices will increase over the next 12 months."

Other property experts are also giving more encouraging assessments of future market trends.



OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK: The slump in property values over the coming months may not be as bad as predicted

Ray Boulger, of brokers John Charcol, said he was of the opinion that house prices had only eight per cent left to fall before bottoming in the autumn and then increasing by three per cent by the end of the year.

Lloyds last week slashed the cost of deals for people who want to get on to the property ladder as price falls have slowed.

However, experts warn that there will continue to be falls in the coming months.

Martin Ellis, housing economist at the Halifax, said: "The average UK house price declined by 1.7 per cent in April, slightly less than the 1.9 per cent monthly fall in the previous month.

"The house price-to-earnings ratio – a key measure of housing affordability – is at its lowest level since the autumn of 2002 at 4.26.

"Mortgage rate cuts have reduced monthly payments for the average existing borrower by £111 since October 2008, also boosting affordability. Mortgage approvals remain at historically very low levels.

"Rising unemployment, low consumer confidence and the reduced availability of credit are all expected to exert downward pressure on the housing market over the next few months.

"As a result, further house price declines are likely."

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- Detached Chalet Style Home



Littlestone £220,000

- Detached Modern House
- Superb Location
- Well Presented
- 3 Bedrooms

New Romney: 01797 364600



Greatstone £225,000

- Seafront Position
- Detached Home
- 4 Bedrooms, Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom, Cloakroom, En-Suite

New Romney: 01797 364600



New Romney £245,000

- 4 Bedrooms
- Very Well Presented, Ideal Location
- Large Lounge
- Outside Storage Space

New Romney: 01797 364600



Dymchurch £275,000

- Grade II Listed with Beams
- Believed to date from 1590
- 4 Bedrooms
- Semi Detached

New Romney: 01797 364600



Greatstone £279,995

- 3 Bedrooms
- Modern & Stylish
- Contemporary Kitchen
- Close to Seafront, Views Across Fields

New Romney: 01797 364600



Dover £95,000

- 3 Storey 3 Bedroom terraced house
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Gas central heating
- Chain free, Rear garden

Dover: 01304 202173



Dover £114,500

- CHAIN FREE !!
- End of terrace 2 double bed house
- Modern bathroom and kitchen/diner
- Lounge, Study, Rear garden

Dover: 01304 202173



Dover £120,000

- A 2 bedroom mid terraced house
- Open lounge/diner, Modern kitchen
- 1st floor bathroom and downstairs WC
- Conservatory, GCH & DG, Rear garden

Dover: 01304 202173



Dover £124,995

- A modern 2 bedroom house
- Lounge, kitchen/diner, Rear garden
- 2 off road parking spaces
- Double glazing and gas central heating

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New Romney £350,000

- Grade II Listed
- 2 Apartments in one house
- 4 Bedroom First Floor Apartment
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- Garage

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Dover £155,000

- A 3 bedroom Semi-detached Victorian house
- 3 Good size bedrooms, Spacious lounge
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- Garage, Rear garden, Great family home

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Temple Ewell £185,000

- An extended 3/4 bedroom semi-detached house
- Good size lounge, dining room, kitchen
- Conservatory and utility, En-suite to bedroom 1
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Dover - Industrial OIRO £350,000

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Tersons Residential Lettings

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WESTBURY CRESCENT £134,950

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WHITFIELD £225,000

Within style four bedroom house. Two reception rooms. Study. Cloakroom. Kitchen with integrated appliances. Master bedroom with en-suite. Family bathroom, garden, Garage.

Dover Office 01304 207099



WYNDHAM ROAD OIEO £90,000

Tower Hamlets area. Two bedroom terraced house. Lounge/diner. Kitchen. First floor bathroom. Double glazing. Central heating.

Dover Office 01304 207099



HAWKINGE £199,995

Four bedroom detached chalet bungalow. Garage and off road parking. No onward chain. Popular Hawkinge area. Capel-le-Ferne

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OIRO £215,000

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DOVER ROAD £54,950

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HAWKINGE £300,000

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RADNOR PARK ROAD £329,995

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ALKHAM OIEO £325,000

4 bedroom period house. Living & Dining Rooms, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Study, Shower & Bathroom. Central heating & double glazing, cellar, gardens, 2 garages and parking.

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RIVER £295,950

Loft style two storey apartment with traditional features. Entrance Hall, 2 Receptions, Kitchen/Dining Room, 3 Bedrooms, Shower/Cloakroom, Bathroom/WC.

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EYTHORNE £245,000

3 bedroom detached house. 2 Receptions. Basement Room, Kitchen and Bathroom. Well established mature gardens. Drive with parking for several cars.

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RIVER OIEO £120,000

2 bedroom end of terrace house. Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Rear Lobby with Cloakroom/WC, Study and Bathroom/WC. Gas heating, double glazing and garden.

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RIVER £109,950

Purpose built ground floor flat. Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Shower Room, Two Bedrooms and Garage. Other benefits include central heating and double glazing.

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NEW ROMNEY £175,000

Three bedroom semi-detached character cottage in conservation area. Two receptions, modern kitchen and bathroom. Many original features. Off road parking.

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NEW ROMNEY £129,950

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DOVER

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Two bedroom first floor flat with allocated parking.



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £100,000

Two bedroom terrace house with double glazing, gas central heating and rear garden.



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £100,000

COMING SOON – CALL TO PRE BOOK VIEWING APPOINTMENT. Three bedroom semi detached house.



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £100,000

Two bed first floor apartment with communal gym, tennis courts, gardens and parking in rural setting.



£115,000

Two bedroom end of terrace house with gas central heating, rear garden and allocated parking.



£119,995

Three bedroom semi detached family home with double glazing, gas central heating and garden. No chain.



£120,000

Two bedroom terrace house with double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden.



£120,000

COMING SOON – CALL TO PRE BOOK VIEWING APPOINTMENT. Three bedroom terrace family house.



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £155,000

Three bed detached house in Maxton with double glazing, gas central heating & garden. Viewing recommended.



£184,995

Three bed semi detached chalet style bungalow offered for sale with no chain. Double glazing, gas central heating.



£250,000

Internal viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the character of this three bed former coach house in a rural location.



£279,950

Three bed detached house with two receptions, en-suite, conservatory, garage and gardens. No chain.

Folkestone 01303 259211

folkestone@bairstoweves.co.uk



£79,950

Recently refurbished top floor flat with new kitchen and bathroom and no chain and situated close to the town centre.



£100,000

Two bedroom maisonette complete with roof garden, gas central heating, double glazed windows, fitted kitchen.



OIEO £115,000

Two bedroom top floor apartment in the West End of Folkestone and offered for sale with no chain.



£129,950

Two bedroom end of terrace house with gas central heating, enclosed rear garden, off road parking.



£136,950

3 bed semi with tiered landscaped front garden, conservatory, double glazed, gas central heating and garage.



£144,950

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£169,950

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£184,500

Two bed bungalow complete with drive to side, garage, gas central heating, part double glazed and gardens.



£189,995

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£219,995

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£225,000

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£250,000

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**Cheriton £425 pcm**

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Folkestone £550 pcm
1 bedroom top floor apartment in this Warden Assisted complex designed for the over 60's close to the centre of Folkestone. Well presented.



Folkestone £575 pcm
A spacious 2 bedroom 1st floor flat within walking distance of the Town Centre and Railway Station. Unfurnished. Available: 07/05/2009

**Cheriton £595 pcm**

Two bedroom mid terrace house close to Risborough Barracks. The property consists of two double bedrooms with first floor bathroom. Lounge and separate dining room. Available: 27/04/2009

**Hythe £595 pcm**

A well presented, spacious 2 bedroom, 1st floor apartment enjoying sea views from the picture windows in the living room. The purpose built building benefits from beautiful gardens. Available: 23/04/2009

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West End £625 pcm
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Etchinghill £800 pcm
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**Hythe £995 pcm**

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MOTORS NEWS



Mazda launches frugal new Ford Focus chaser

MAZDA has launched an all-new rival in the hard-fought family hatchback sector.

The latest Mazda3 (from £13,500) echoes the sharp styling of the bigger '6' model and gains new 2.2-litre performance diesel engines of 150PS (148bhp) and 185PS (182bhp) output.

Fuel economy is better by up to 16 percent and CO₂ emissions reduced by 19 per cent. Company car user choosers will like reduced Benefit in Kind liabilities.

The range is again offered in five-door and four-door formats.



Chrysler is marking 25 years in special style

CHRYSLER is celebrating the Grand Voyager's 25th anniversary with a special edition.

Already big on value, the £32,600 GV 'special' comes with extras including leather trimmed seats, dual screen rear DVD entertainment system and 'unconnect' GPS sat nav, Xenon headlamps and 'Bentley' style chrome mesh grille.

But the famous Stow 'n' Go system is standard, allowing the second and third row of seats to fold flat into the floor, offering extra luggage space.



Take the air for free on the sharp-suited Cruze

CHEVROLET is tipped to further boost market share with the forthcoming sharp-suited Cruze saloon, due to replace the ageing Lacetti in July.

The General Motors value brand is also drumming up advance interest by righting a glaring omission from an otherwise generous spec on the £11,545 Cruze 1.6S entry model – air con. Normally a £450 extra, this will be free on any Cruze ordered before August 31 and joins electronic stability control and follow-me-home lighting as major bonuses on this newcomer.



EYE-CATCHER: The MiTo sums up everything that's great about Alfa Romeo, taking in lines echoing those of the stunning Alfa 8C Competizione supercar and superb value for money

Alfa will challenge Mini with its own 'M-word'

ROAD TEST ALFA MITO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



Such all-round appeal is enhanced by a sector-leading standard-fit package of selectable driver aids/modes under the somewhat cheesy abbreviation DNA – in this case, short for Dynamic, Normal and All-Weather.

'Dynamic' is what Alfa has always strived to stand for: quick, taut and responsive with the engine yelling to let you know it's with you all the way; 'Normal' does what it says on the tin, looking after you in busy traffic when more comfort is required; while 'All-Weather' gets you home in the sort of snowy conditions Kent experienced earlier in the year, by toning down throttle response and keeping you sensible... and on the road.

The MiTo is not the roomiest supermini though, but comes with a maximum five-star NCAP safety rating and generous specifications.

The range opens with an unblown 1.4-litre petrol at £11,795 and the perky diesels begin at £12,245. There is an evocative series of trim levels too; tell your mates you bought the Turismo and they probably won't have clue that you bought the cooking version, Lusso doesn't sound bad even if it is the halfway house, while Veloce sounds just right for a famous sporting brand. Looks best in red or black though.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FIAT DOBLO



NOT the greatest looking MPV, but the Doblo probably offers more space to the pound than any other. Odd looks disguise surprisingly good handling and comfort, with easy access via two rear sliding doors. Fiat diesel technology makes it attractive too, although it is best to go for the top of the range 103bhp turbodiesel to get anything like decent acceleration with a load – it hits 60mph in 12.6 seconds compared with the entry level 1.2 petrol version's 19 seconds.

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Looks and image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★★ |
| Quality | ★★★★★ |

AFFORDABLE MPVs

JUST a few years ago, a new breed of van-based budget people carriers suffered from a 'Postman Pat' image. But the recession has brought realism in place of image-conscious consumerism. Many hard-pressed families realise models like those featured here can be far cheaper to run than a specialist people carrier. Small businesses love them too, because these workhorses can switch from a midweek van role to weekend family holdall, with sliding rear doors for easy access. Top-notch diesel options make them reliable and good on fuel too.

RENAULT KANGOO



RENAULT invented the MPV thing with the Espace and then the Scenic, so the French marque was bound to compete in the budget sector. The Kangoo is both spacious and comfortable, with a pliant ride. It is available – at a premium price – with a lively 80bhp diesel, although petrol options are competent too. Rear sliding doors add to the car's huge high roof space efficiency and flexibility and there are 4x4 Trekka (pictured) versions if you need the extra traction.

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Looks and image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★★ |
| Quality | ★★★★★ |

PEUGEOT PARTNER COMBI/CITROËN BERLINGO MULTISPACE



WE cheated on numbers this week, but these two models are virtually identical clones even if the Citroën (pictured) is more common due to keener prices and higher sales when new. Probably the most refined if not the most spacious models in this class, most versions are pleasant to drive and ride in though the legendary power and refinement of their PSA diesels will most tempt growing families, dog lovers or people needing to load up for a sporty lifestyle.

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Looks and image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★★ |
| Quality | ★★★★★ |

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Škoda Range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3(5.3), Extra-urban 38.2(7.4) – 83.1(3.4). Combined 28.0 (10.1) – 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ emissions for the Škoda Range 109 – 235g/km.

The £2,500 saving is dependant on the vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage incentive criteria. The Government scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31st August 1999 when traded-in against a new car subject to conditions. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer is subject to availability and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. At participating retailers only. Please see your local retailer for full terms and conditions.



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| | |
|--|---------|
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| 06 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback, Beige Metallic, 42,500 miles, Manual, Petrol | £5,495 |
| 06 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback, Beige Metallic, 12,300 miles, Manual, Petrol | £5,995 |
| 04 Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback, Sahara Beige Metallic, 45,846 miles, Manual, Diesel..... | £7,495 |
| 04 Skoda Superb 1.9 TDI PD 130 Comfort 4-Dr Saloon, Titan Grey Metallic, 27,350 miles, Automatic, Diesel..... | £7,995 |
| 05 Skoda Octavia 2.0 FSI 4x4 5-Door Estate, Satin Grey Metallic, 33,500 miles, Manual, Petrol..... | £7,995 |
| 06 Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback, Red Metallic, 41,500 miles, Manual, Diesel | £7,995 |
| 04 Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback, Beige Metallic, 43,750 miles, Manual, Diesel | £7,995 |
| 08 Skoda Fabia 2.1 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback, Tangerine Orange Metallic, 4,000 miles, Manual, Diesel..... | £8,495 |
| 08 Skoda Fabia 2.1 1.9 TDI PD (105 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback, Satin Grey Metallic, 6,900 miles, Manual, Diesel..... | £9,995 |
| 08 Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Scout 5-Dr Estate, Brilliant Silver Metallic, 5,500 miles, Manual, Diesel..... | £15,995 |

OTHER MAKES

| | |
|---|--------|
| 06 Daihatsu Terios 1.3 Sport 5-Door Station Wagon, Silver Mist Metallic, 3,300 miles, Manual, Petrol | £6,495 |
| 04 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Flame Limited Edition 3-Door Hatchback, Moondust Silver Metallic, 42,000 miles, Manual, Petrol | £5,495 |
| 02 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi 115 Ghia 4-Door Saloon, Blue Print Metallic, 42,200 miles, Manual, Diesel | £4,495 |
| 03 Ford Fusion 1.4 2 5-Door Hatchback, Panther Black Metallic, 64,500 miles, Manual, Petrol | £3,995 |
| 02 Peugeot 406 Saloon 1.8 Rapier Special Edition, Platinum Silver Metallic, 83,400 miles, Manual, Petrol..... | £1,995 |
| 00 Volkswagen New Beetle 2.0, Batik Blue, 69,100 miles, Manual, Petrol | £4,495 |

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Head teacher: Rose Bradley

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Interview Date: 12th June 2009



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Variable hours, Fixed-term until 31st July 2010

Ref: T1383

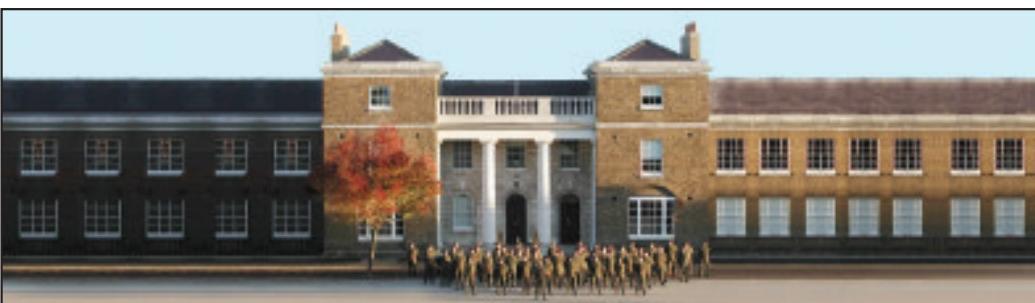
You will teach across all courses on NVQ Levels 1 to 3, specialising in complimentary and alternative therapies such as reflexology as well as delivering Key Skills. NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Beauty Therapy is essential, as is a minimum of three years recent and relevant industry experience.

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For further information or an application pack please contact the Human Resources Department on 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

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Please forward completed applications to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk and/or call Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 for an informal discussion on any of these positions.

Closing date: 1st June 2009

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

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Julian Drage - Head of Finance

Keel Toys Limited

Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SG

Tel: +44 (0)1233 506363 Fax: +44(0)1233 506364 Email: Julian.drage@keeltoys.com

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- Have a track record of delivering customer-focused services
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In return we will reward you with a competitive salary, flexible working hours and a challenging career. If you think you would like to join us, please contact Mark Wilson on 01303 853389 for an informal discussion.

Application details can be downloaded at below or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

The closing date for completed application forms is Friday 5 June 2009.

Shepway District Council
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY
Tel: 01303 853000
www.shepway.gov.uk

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council

www.shepway.gov.uk

 Shepway District Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of race, colour, age, sex or disability.

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Barbara Coker

KOS Media
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Closing Date: 28 May 2009

For more information and to apply, visit www.chichester.ac.uk/jobs

Alternatively, please call Human Resources on 01243 537687 or email: humanresources@chichester.ac.uk quoting HR2901C.

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06/122

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CDO/HE

The closing date for the above posts is Tuesday 26 May 2009 at 12 noon

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

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Closing Date is Monday 1 June

Please send a LARGE SAE for an application pack to the address below clearly indicating which post you are interested in.
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E-mail: Debbie.terziyski@laleham-gap.kent.sch.uk

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Interested: Please forward your CV to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk or call him on 07725 128661 (after 12th May) for an informal discussion.

A full Job Description/Person Specification and application can be seen at www.midkent.ac.uk

Closing Date: 25th May 2009



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE PARK FARM (FOUNDATION) PRIMARY SCHOOL AND REPLACE IT AS A PRIMARY SCHOOL WITHIN THE FOLKESTONE ACADEMY

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to discontinue Park Farm Primary School, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DN on 31 August 2009.

The Folkestone Academy will extend its age range from 11-18 years to 4-18 years and it is proposed that all pupils in Park Farm PS at the time of its closure will transfer to the Folkestone Academy if that is the wish of the child's parent(s)/carer(s).

Parents/carers who do not wish their children to attend the primary phase of the Folkestone Academy may seek admissions to other schools in the area that have places.

Any existing transport arrangements will continue.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from David Adams, at the address below, or from the Authority's website: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations>.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. Signed: Grahame Ward, Director of Resources

Publication Date: 20 May 2009

Explanatory Notes

1. The Folkestone Academy will admit 60 pupils per year in the primary phase and 240 pupils per year in the secondary phase.

2. It must be stressed that the proposed closure of Park Farm Primary School is entirely dependent upon a Ministerial decision to amend the Folkestone Academy's funding agreement enabling it to deliver education to pupils aged 4-18, rather than the current 11-18 years. If this agreement is not forthcoming, this closure proposal will not go ahead.

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CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

Kent Cricket League Division One

Sandwich Town 1st XI v

Hythe Town 1st XI

HYTHE Town edged out Sandwich by two wickets in a tense encounter at The Butts on Saturday.

After being asked to bat first, Sandwich Town scored a competitive 205 for seven from their 50 overs. Craig Snell was the main man for Sandwich, a side relegated from the Premier Division last season, hitting 65 to ensure his team could set a defendable total. Vishaul Singh (45) fell five runs short of a half-century after putting on 41 with Snell. The majority of Sandwich's batsmen got starts at the weekend, but failed to go on to post a really good score.

Both Jago Pearson and Hamish Morrison each took two wickets for Hythe who bowled well to restrict the home side.

In reply, Dan Furnival and Leon Morgan gave their side an excellent platform to win the game with a 108-run partnership. Morgan smashed 64 before he became the first of four wickets for Matthew van Poppel. The same bowler also claimed the wickets of Morgan (43) and Jago Pearson (10) which helped Sandwich back into the game.

Jon Smith hit 37 for Hythe to steady the ship, but when he departed, the visitors lost four wickets for just 30 runs.

Robert Goatham came on and claimed the wickets of Daniel Patching (12), Richard Perkins (5) and Joe Sheppard, leaving Hythe in a precarious position at 177 for seven. Hamish Morrison and Trevor Squire edged the visitors closer, until van Poppel removed him. It was then left to Squire (14 not out) and Ben Dwyer (10 not out) to see Hythe over the line with eight balls spare.

Hythe return to action this weekend against Canterbury, while Sandwich Town take on Tenterden.

No Butts about it as Hythe claim victory



TENSE: In a tight game at The Butts on Saturday, Hythe's batsmen came out on top to win by two wickets against Sandwich Town

SCOREBOARD**Sandwich**

| | Runs |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Craig Snell b Patching | 65 |
| David Scoggins lbw b Squire | 11 |
| Robert Goatham ct Smith b Dwyer | 5 |
| Vishaul Singh b Pearson | 45 |
| Gary Burgess lbw b Morrison | 10 |
| David Scarr ct Squire b Morrison | 14 |
| James Bolt ct Perkins b Pearson | 17 |
| Gavin Lawrence not out | 14 |
| Craig Spanton not out | 13 |
| Matthew van Poppel did not bat | |
| Jack Bradley did not bat | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Extras (1lb 4lb 2w 4nb) | 11 |
| Total (7 wickets, 50 overs) | 205 |

| Bowlers | 0 | M | R | W |
|-----------------|----|---|----|---|
| Trevor Squire | 5 | 0 | 33 | 1 |
| Dan Large | 10 | 2 | 35 | 0 |
| Ben Dwyer | 10 | 0 | 44 | 1 |
| Daniel Patching | 8 | 2 | 19 | 1 |
| Hamish Morrison | 10 | 0 | 42 | 2 |
| Jago Pearson | 7 | 0 | 27 | 2 |

Hythe

| | Runs |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Dan Furnival ct Lawrence b van Poppel | 43 |
| Leon Morgan ct Lawrence b van Poppel | 64 |
| Jago Pearson ct Snell b van Poppel | 10 |
| Jon Smith run out | 37 |
| Daniel Patching b Goatham | 12 |
| Richard Perkins st Lawrence b Goatham | 5 |
| Joe Sheppard ct Spanton b Goatham | 0 |
| Trevor Squire not out | 14 |
| Hamish Morrison lbw b van Poppel | 10 |
| Ben Dwyer not out | 10 |
| Dan Large did not bat | |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Extras (1lb 3lb) | 4 |
| Total (8 wickets, 48.4 overs) | 209 |

| Bowlers | 0 | M | R | W |
|--------------------|----|---|----|---|
| Craig Spanton | 11 | 3 | 45 | 0 |
| Jack Bradley | 7 | 2 | 33 | 0 |
| Craig Snell | 2 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| Robert Goatham | 13 | 1 | 46 | 3 |
| Matthew van Poppel | 15 | 1 | 59 | 4 |

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Hares in bid to add four to his Deal squad



READY: Boss Derek Hares only wants to add four new players to the squad

DEAL Town boss Derek Hares hopes to retain the majority of his squad for next season's assault on the Kent League.

Hares, who has been in charge of the club for five years, admitted he was hampered by injuries this season, which reflected Town's final league position of 12th this term.

The Deal boss will begin his preparations for next season this week and intends to add just four players to his squad.

He said: "I will sit down with the players this week to discuss their future, but to be honest I would like to keep most of my squad for next season. I think I will only need to bring three or four players in."

FOOTBALL

"I have spoken to a number of transfer targets, but I would rather not say who they are at the moment, as every manager is in the same boat trying to build their squads."

Hares is hoping to name a couple of additions to his squad at the end of this week.

The club hosted their end of season presentation night on Saturday, with defender Adam Govey picking up players' and managers' player of the year. Midfielder Aaron Robinson won the chairman's player of the year award.

FOOTBALL



FIXTURE: Jimmy Dryden netted twice against Gills

Invicta host Gills for pre-season highlight

FOLKESTONE Invicta will again be hosting Gillingham as the highlight of their pre-season programme.

The Seasiders have a close connection with Kent's only Football League club, thanks in part to former assistant manager Mark Patterson, who is manager at the Gills' Centre of Excellence.

The fixture is a regular in the Seasiders' build up to the new season and gives the club a very useful payday from the bumper crowd. Invicta boss Neil Cugley will be hoping for a repeat of last season, when two goals from Jimmy Dryden inspired the non-league side to a 2-1 win.

The big game will be at Invicta's Buzlines Stadium on Saturday, July 25.

Ryman North side Thamesmead Town are the first opponents on July 18, followed by Norton Sports of the Kent League.

Cugley's side also have trips to Deal Town and Erith & Belvedere, before a home game against Hastings United. One date, on August 11, remains open.

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See video previews as Gills prepare for the play-off final at Wembley

Whites on brink of naming their 'big' transfer target

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

DOVER Athletic are expected to unveil a transfer coup this week as the Whites squad begins to take shape ahead of the new season.

Dover chairman Jim Parmenter announced two weeks ago that the club – as ambitious as ever – were in talks with a player who featured regularly in the Blue Square Premier League last season.

The player in question has captained a Football League side in his career. One name linked with a move to Dover is former Gillingham captain and Rushden & Diamonds defender Christopher Hope.

Mr Parmenter told Yourdover: "Talks are ongoing with the player and we should be able to announce something this week. On the whole I am very pleased with how the squad is shaping up."

The potential signing would join former Eastbourne Borough goalkeeper Lee Hook, who signed a two-year contract with the club last week.

Boss Andy Hessenthaler told the club's website: "Lee is a player that Darren Hare, my assistant coach, recommended. He is a good keeper and established in the Blue Square Premier."

"Competition for places is key anywhere.



FANS' FAVOURITES: Forward duo Frannie Collin and Shaun Welford (pictured) have extended their contracts at Crabble

And Lee certainly brings that and will be competing for that number one jersey."

Strikers Frannie Collin, Shaun Welford and goalkeeper John Whitehouse have agreed new contracts at the club, leaving Alan Pouton as the only player yet to put pen to paper on a new deal.

Trialist forward Lassana Sidibe, who featured for the Whites during the last five games of the season, has been invited back for pre-season, but has not been offered a new contract.

Elsewhere at the club, Parmenter is remain-

ing tight-lipped after reports and posts on the club's forum, suggesting that three board members Roger Knight, Dave Weber and Steve Williams have resigned at Crabble.

The news came before the club announced they are to welcome financier Scott Rutherford and former club secretary Frank Clarke to the Dover Athletic board.

Mr Parmenter didn't want to comment, only wishing to say: "We are making appointments to the board and we are in discussion with existing board members."

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